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Genealogy of the Benda Family

by

Ernst Benda
for his Children

September 28, 1901

(Genealogie der Familie Benda
von
Ernst Benda
für seine Kinder)

Translation by
Gerd T. A. Benda
February, 1995


Karl Benda II 5
Max B. II 4
Minna Meyer V 8
Fanny Meyer V 7
Johanna Dehncedt V 1
Sarah Meyer V
Daniel A. Benda III
Augusta Friedmann
Celestine Friedmann II 1
Sigm. H. Benda II
Das Ahn Benda
Henrich Juda


Minna Meyer V 8
Fanny Meyer V 7
Martin Dahn VI 5
Ida Warrens VII 3
Theresa Weber VIII
Caroline Dahn VI
Rosa Süssmann II
Henriette Meier IX 1
David Meier IX 1 f.
Leopold Meier IX 1 e.
Carl Süssmann IX 1
Clara IX 1 c.
Rosalie IX 1 b.
Auguste IX 1 d.
Das Ahn Benda
Henrich Juda

FOREWORD

More than 90 years have passed since Ernst Benda wrote his "Genealogy of the Family Benda", or enough time to span four more generations--one beginning, one in full vigor, one going, and one gone. As a thread through our immediate family--and understated by half--Ernst Benda's brother, Max. S. Benda, (Their father was Liepmann Alexander Benda.) had five children, among whom were:

1) Theodor Benda, who had two sons, Max. E. and Heinrich Benda. Max. had two children, Inge B. Porat and Gerd Benda. Inge had three children, David, Andrew and Judith Porat. Gerd has two sons, Max. Paul and Jonathan Benda, and Jonathan has two children, Grant and Larke Benda.

2) Ida B. Reich, who had two daughters, of whom the younger, Margarete R. Lieffering, had two children, Wolf and Elsa Lieffering.

Without Elsa Lieffering there would not have been this booklet: Elsa gathered the family material, including Ernst Benda's writings, the books by Jacobson and Oppenheimer, and the photocopies, and sent them to my mother. I know nothing further about the provenance, neither of typescripts nor of photocopies. I have hoped that someone, anyone, would translate these writings and collate some of the material. As the younger generations are further away from the language and from the 'vanished present' of a destroyed past, the pool of anyones by 1995 had markedly contracted.

If you are interested in the material of this booklet, remember Elsa Lieffering gratefully; if not, blame Gerd Benda.

The Ernst Benda typescripts consist of two equally long parts, genealogy and memoirs. The genealogy (54 pages) concerns his father's family (Benda) and his mother's (Riess). The Riess family narrative part of the genealogy and the memoirs are yet to be translated.

The arrangement of this booklet is as follows:

a) Translation of the Benda genealogy, using the page-numbering of the German typescript;

b) Appendix, with some historical material and comments in the nature of footnotes. The material from books has been taken without the permission of publishers.

c) Copy of the German typescript.

The family tree, also from Elsa, in its original form as a single page is aesthetically pleasing but difficult to read; the form presented is much less elegant but offers some enlargement. The tree shows near the base the names of David Abr. Benda and Henrietta Itzig who married in 1770

and had 10 children including one pair of twins. The children are given Roman numerals, and were born in the last third of the Eighteenth Century. The grandchildren, with a Roman and an Arabic numeral, were generally born in the first third of the Nineteenth Century, and the great-grandchildren, with a Roman and Arabic numeral and a small letter,were born mostly in the middle third of the Nineteenth Century. The family tree is a map for the Benda genealogy, for his typescript concerns the three generations of branches,children through great-grandchildren.

TRANSLATION

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Berlin, September 28, 1901

Should I survive until the 13th of October of this year, it will have been 76 years that I have been alive, a condition, given the natural course of events, not likely to continue very long; there might be one or another of my descendants interested in knowing in more detail something of my or their descent or that of their cousins, although, if the truth be known, there is not much to tell that is outstanding.

Perhaps I shall add to it a consideration or a sketch of the course of my life; but also in this respect there is nothing special to report. It would be to spin yarns of a simple bourgeois life. Although I have watched as universal political and social changes of great magnitude went by me, I have been, regretfully, an idle spectator whether due to predisposition or to a character weak-hearted in development. A spectator who not even infrequently misunderstood that which took place in front of his eyes. The environment in which I found myself by birth and education and later by circumstances does not seem to have especially favored a more vigorous development of my brain (alias understanding). Don't register a complaint against me personally that I did not become an outstanding politician, famous artist, excellent scholar, or splendid financier, that I was awarded no title, that I did not achieve even the smallest, most modest decoration.

In later childhood, I was pushy and ambitious without drive or perseverance, then, in youth's wild energy, careless, thoughtless, and eventually as a confirmed family man, fearfully reserved, taking no risks, avoiding everything which would unnecessarily draw attention to me. For a long time, actually since I retired, I have seen my past inner life as I have just described it. Had it been possible during my adolescence to have me reasonably and energetically focus my thoughts on my future, what I

would become, what I would do, I might have developed more favorably, I might have, as one says, become somebody, because I had not been slighted in natural endowments physically or psychologically. Now, when I look back, I realize that like millions of others I have been, in the edifice of humanity, just an ordinary brick which, having filled, after a fashion, its appointed place, crumbles and is heedlessly discarded, that is to say, sinks into oblivion.

I am actually quite unsatisfied with the course of my life, especially as I have much to reproach myself for, but, on the other hand, I may not complain about my fate, for I had a comparatively happy childhood and later a happy marriage, my financial circumstances prospered, though on a moderate scale, and overall I was spared the greater misfortunes (with the exception of the all-too-early death of my wife).

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Who knows, had the course of my development and of my life been shaped according to my present wishes, if I would have reached my present, quiet, worry-free and relatively healthy old age or if I would have failed early on.

Thus content I must be, even though I am not satisfied, and happy in the forgetting of that which cannot be changed anymore.

What does the Vicar of Wakefield say?

"I was ever of the opinion, that the honest man, who marries and brings up a large family, does more service, than he who continues single, and talks only of population".

Well then, I may thus be proud to have contributed to the "population" eight, happily grown children. The "happily" pertains to the lifespan of my progeny, not for all of them to their fate. For some of these eight, their life so far has not gone especially according to their wishes--more or less as a result of their own doing, others have not yet sufficiently paid their tribute to human society (be fruitful and multiply) as prescribed in the Bible, but, anyhow, I have 13 nice grandchildren that bring me joy: my family for the time being will continue, and we hope that perhaps many a one among them will develop into useful members of human society. Then I would not have lived in vain.

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About Genealogy

My parents, both born in Berlin, were descended from Jews. My father, Liepmann Alexander Benda, was born on February 7, 1784, and died on April 10, 1859, after suffering extensively for some 20 years of what probably was a hardening of the lungs. He was a businessman, trading wholesale in undressed skins, associated with his brothers, Moses and Daniel; their company was dissolved around 1830. About his parents I know extremely little, but they also seem to have been from Berlin. I think that my father's father was named Abraham, and only his children took the name Benda when in the year 1807 the Prussian Jews had to adopt German names. How they decided on the fairly decent name Benda I have forgotten or never found out. The name occurs once in a while in Bohemia. In Berlin, at the beginning of the 19th Century, there was one well-known aulic councillor {Hofrat-no English equivalent} with this name who was descended from the famous concertmaster of Frederick the Great and who died as a bachelor and, besides our family, only a Mr. Jean Benda who had children and who also was of Jewish descent. Since then the name has become more frequent in Berlin, not so much through the progeny of the two families as through influx from outside. According to another version, my grandfather already called himself Da. Benda and his ancestors in 1701 accompanied the newly hatched King Frederick I from Koenigsberg to Berlin as Jews with special privileges granted by the king {Hofjuden}

I do not know when my paternal grandfather died; my grandmother died about a half year after my birth. I really only got to know her in effigy because in my father's office there was a gruesome plastercast bust, brown-green in color, with strict features and a strangely old-fashioned cap on her head, the cap hiding discreetly her hair-do. The bust made our flesh creep until we understood and believed that it was not a representation of a fairy-tale witch but our dear, good grandmother. My mother Johanna, nee Riess, was born July 12, 1787, and died on February 19, 1867; for a long time her vision had been severely impaired as a result of cataracts, but until the end she remained active and strong. A cold was followed by a fatal pneumonia. (Dates appended later: Grandfather, born January 15, 1746, married 1770; died October 9, 1804; Grandmother born 1750, died June 20, 1824)

The mother of my mother, nee Leidersdorf from Altona, had been a widow with the married name Haller, and she had had two sons before she married my grandfather. The father of my mother had also been married before and was the father of three sons from the earlier marriage, so that

my mother and her five full siblings had also five half-brothers from two different sides. My grandfather's name was Koppel Riess; he died in 1809. The family Riess was highly aristocratic, for they descended directly from one of the eight protected Jews {Schutzjuden} who in the 17th Century,

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having been driven out of Vienna, were graciously admitted and permitted to settle in Berlin by the "grosse Kurfuerst" under such conditions as at best are allowed to people who are there only on sufferance. The family Riess thought a good deal of itself as a result of its ancestors; they all had something fine, aristocratic about them, and my father, who remained until his end a plain, unassuming man, would always answer my mother when she spoke of her relatives: "Yes, but they are also your Maccabees". He intended to say with this that their family tree extended to Judas Maccabaeus.

I now include a table of my relatives of the first, second, and third degree. I would add the comment that I lost most of my uncles and aunts during my childhood and knew some of them very little, and don't even remember many of their names; there is a possibility of some errors. Those who converted to Christianity are indicated with a cross, as is only proper. Chronological order was not possible for me. A few children that died in earliest childhood are not included. (Ordered chronologically later)

The Family Benda

My grandfather's children:

1. Moses, b June 20, 1772, m Jettchen nee Rubens, 2 s, 2 d
2. Gutchen, b July 19, 1777, m businessman Borchardt, 3 d
3. Caroline, b September 3, 1781, m dealer in manuf. goods Bahn, 3 s, 2 d
+4. Rosa, b. September 3, 1781, m manufacturer Sussmann, 2 s, 1 d
5. Liepmann Alexander, b February 2, 1784, m Johanna nee Riess, 3 s, 2 d
6. Daniel Alexander, b November 22, 1786, m Feilchen nee Sachs, 1 s, 1d
7. Sarah, b December 31, 1789, m stockbroker Meier, 4 s, 4 d
+8. Marianna, b December 12, 1790, m jeweler Ende, 1 s
{?}9. Siegmund Alexander, b January 23, 1794, m Auguste nee Rindler, 3 s, 2 d
+10. Therese, b ? , m police officer Weber, 2 s, 3 d

There were 10 children, 10 children-in-law, 41 grandchildren. Of all

these, only 4 grandchildren were still alive (in September, 1901), namely, Franziska Teltz nee Benda, 78-years old; Martin Bahn, 75-years old; I myself, 76-years old; and (probably) Therese Balmer nee Weber in America (St.Louis), about 80-years old.

P.S. Franziska Teltz and Martin Bahn died in May and June, 1902.

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The Family Riess

Grandfather's children with his first wife

1. Itzig Riess, m Amalie nee Mayer, 3 s
2. David Riess, m Rebecca (?), 1 s, 5 d
+3. Adolph (Aron) Riess, m ?, 4s, 4 d

Children of the second wife, nee Leidersdorf, with her first husband

+4. Martin Haller, m ?, 2 s, 1 d
5. Benny Haller, m neeLandsberg, widowed Markwald, 1 s, 2 d

Grandfather's children with his second wife, nee Leidersdorf

6. Betty, m banker Sussmann, 2 s, 4 d
7. Susanne, m Gueterbock, 8 s, 1 d
8. Johanne, m L. A. Benda, 3 s, 2 d
9. Ida, m businessman Lehfeldt, 4 s 2 d
10. Johann, not married
11. Helene, not married

Of all these (in September, 1901) only 4 were still alive: Gustav Gueterbock, 81-years old, Betty Riess, 88-years old, my half-cousin Benny Haller, and I. Altogether, there had been 11 children, 9 children-in-law, 49 grandchildren.

I have had as close relatives: 1 wife, 2 parents, 4 siblings, 4 husbands or wives of my siblings--not counting the siblings of my wife--18 uncles, 18 aunts, 43 cousins (male), 37 cousins (female), thus, 127 persons, of which by September, 1901, only six were still alive, and by July 1902 three more had died, namely: Betty Riess, Franziska Teltz, Martin Bahn.

Of the seven siblings of my wife, four were married, and of these 11 persons, only four are still live: my sisters-in-law Mrs. Johanna Hanff and Miss Agnes Hanff, Mrs. Sophie and Emma Hanff. Besides these I have also still living my sisters-in-law Matilde and Pauline Benda.

I shall now give such details about the relatives as I can still remember.

a. Paternal side

I. *Moses Benda* . I remember him well as he died at the end of the 'thirties; he was a small corpulent gentleman with a friendly, good-natured face and always with a little velvet cap to cover his bald head. He must have been an orthodox-thinking man, enthused for the Jewish faith. After he retired in 1830, his favorite occupation was so to trim healthy and complete Jewish boys eight days after birth--for heavenly reward--that they would never ever be able to deny that they were Jehova's Life Guards; but the good Lord showed no understanding, for he let him have an accident in his one-horse carriage when he went for this purpose on a trip to Potsdam. The severe head injury was healed through trepanation, and my uncle lived another 6 to 8 years, but his understanding was gone. His psychological problem took a strange turn. In conversations with him, one noticed nothing of his absentmindedness until he would suddenly begin to recount his earlier experiences; then he would tell in fixed order and practically word-for-word four or five adventures that were supposed to have happened to him involving famous personalities - Ludwig Philipp when he was still a tutor in Switzerland; Sir Moses Montefiore in Jerusalem; Napoleon as Consul; etc. etc. In the last years of his life he had to be legally incapacitated as he lost the sense for the value of money so that, for example, he gave a strange beggar a couple of silver spoons and similar nonsense.

Of his wife I have only a very unclear memory of a little, slight, unattractive woman--according to my concepts of that time. Their four children did not grow old.

1. The oldest daughter Lina (or Caroline?) married the businessman Hartwig Hirschfeld, and they had two children: Jeanette, married name Hahn, and David, (my neighbor later at the Schoeneberger Ufer). Hartwig H., his wife having died after a brief marriage, married again and had three daughters: Pauline, Clotilde, and Zerline, of whom the first named, as

wife of my brother Max, became my sister-in-law. Hartwig H. was a most honorable and widely esteemed gentleman.

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2. The second daughter,LEA, had been married first to a Mr. Marasse but had, I believe, been divorced, and then she became the wife of a paper manufacturer Rosenhain, and I have--even though she probably died in the 'forties or 'fifties--only one memory of her but that one most pleasant, that every Jewish Easter she brought my parents a lot of matzos and a plate full of delicious kosher corned beef, which was then eaten in a most unritualistic manner with butter and a sense of well-being but without the slightest conversion to piety.

3. The oldest son Meyer (Martin) Benda with his brother took over the leather business that his father and uncles (Liepmann and Daniel) had operated as Firma Benda Gebrueder until 1830, and they continued it until their deaths in the 'forties and 'fifties as Firma M. Benda Soehne.

I remember Martin Benda as a nice, friendly cousin who always seemed to be in a good mood. I think especially of the moment when he presented his bride to my parents (who already lived in the Neuen Schoenhauserstrasse); I was then 8 to 10 years old but already judged correctly that the young lady -nee Bendien- had a little round figure but a most enchanting face, and I thought it very natural that the lucky bridegroom could not get enough of the kisses from the bridal mouth, even in the presence of others who did not have the same privilege.

When the wedding of the two had been celebrated, my parents having been there, the following took place at our house: My father is sitting on the sofa wearing a swallowtail coat and a white tie; he is in a very cheerless, melancholic mood and completely convinced that all champagne is poison including, naturally, that which he had drunk today and that he must die forthwith. That my mother in the face of such disaster alternated between laughing and scolding, that is, bawling him out, was to me totally inexplicable, and when my father asked me to promise him never to drink champagne, I made him this promise with all my heart and soul, but kept this promise regrettably as little as many other praiseworthy intentions.

From the wedding to the grave is often not far, and so my poor cousin did not have very long to enjoy his marital bliss. He died in the prime of life of cancer after the birth of a son and several daughters. My father now and then would tell the following story: There was besides the little widow, a faithful bookkeeper of many years who was left behind,

and both of them met by chance at the grave of the departed to think piously of him.

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There, overcome by pain, her strength failed her, a bench was not available, and so she sank into the bookkeeper's arms which fortunately were there to receive her, and the bookkeeper did everything to console the Unhappy One. This scene repeated itself soon thereafter for a second time, and then, as both found this kind of consolation agreeable, they found it right and also easier to marry and in this manner to save themselves the long way to the cemetery. The name of the second husband has escaped me; I only know that not long thereafter he died of consumption. The only son of my cousin Martin died at the age of 21 in the full bloom of youth. Of the daughters, one, a Mrs. Stern, lived across from us at the Schoenhauserstrasse (already then a young widow). A second daughter is married to the well-known City Councillor Mamroth.

+4. The other son, Alexander, was a charming, jovial guy, everywhere well-liked, ready for every harmless joke. He associated himself with the Koenigstaedter Theater at the Alexanderplatz; the theater played a big part in the Berlin of that time because of his opera (for which Sonntag and Haenel were engaged) and of his comedies (with Schmelke, Spitzeder, Beckmann). He also found there his wedded bliss in that he married the beautiful and highly respectable Miss Schelter who had been engaged by the theater to sing in the choir. Unfortunately, he too died in the prime of life (from a hemorrhagic stroke so suddenly that he had a burning cigar still in his hand) and left behind several sons, among whom the horticulturalist Carl Benda in the Magazinstrasse is widely known.

II. *Liepmann Alexander Benda.* Mrs. Johanna, nee Riess, their dates of birth and death have been previously mentioned; also about the course of their lives as well as that of their children I intend to write more specifically in the memoirs. I have included here only statistical information.

1. The oldest daughter, Coelestine, born April 27, 1813, died November 14, 1842, married to Julius Friedemann from Zehdenick, who had a bank here at 19 Unter den Linden as well as a factory for silverware, died August 16, 1843.

+ their son Felix, born 1839, died 1896.

2. Daughter Auguste, born March 9, 1815, died September 21, 1871,

married to Adolph Friedemann, who first ran a leased oil factory, and later, about 1848-9, moved to Berlin; he died January 15, 1871.
two sons: a. Julius, born January 18, 1843
b. Edmund, born December 1, 1847

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+3. Son Karl, born January 22, 1818, died August 14, 1855, was first a district judge, then proprietor of an estate, married to Mathilde Petrich from Sommersin near Tuchel.
+a. Son Max, died August 1878, born 1850
+ Daughters b. Coelestine, married Guderian, born 1851
c. Johanna, married Dr. Rosenow and divorced, born 1853
4. Son Max, born April 6, 1820, died April 23, 1895, physician, married to Pauline Hirschfeld
Sons:
a. Dr. Theodor (physician) married to Bertha Loewy
b. Siegmund, businessman, married to Marg. Ahronheim
c. Otto, private income, unmarried
Daughters:
+d. Ida, married to Sam. Reich
e. Johanna, married to Alex. Bernstein
5. Son Ernst, born October 13, 1825, married to Virginie Hanff, who was born August 12, 1836, and who died November 9, 1884.
Sons:
+a. Carl, Dr. med., Professor, also Assistant Professor of Anatomy at the Urban, born December 30, 1857, married to Luise Rohde
+b. Martin, born November 28, 1865, unmarried
+c. Hans, 'Reg.' architect, born November 23, 1867, married to Marg. Marsmann
+d. Alexander, landowner, born May 4, 1872, married to Maria Schoch
Daughters:
e. Clara, born July 10, 1860, married to Ludwig Berg
+f. Anna, born July 10, 1862, married to and divorced from Prof. Fechner, then married to Duntz
+g. Margarethe, born February 6, 1864, divorced from Dr. Vowinckel
+h. Victoria, born August 12, 1870, married to Ernst Zaeslein

III. *Daniel Alexander Benda* was, I believe, two years younger than my

father and died, very aged and for some time already blind, in the 1870s. He was of a constitution that was vigorous, idealistic, enthusiastic about human welfare and about delving into philosophical problems, and he probably could have accomplished much if, when young, he would have received the necessary educational foundation or if, later on, he would have been in a position to acquire what was still missing. There was no lack of ambition, but he didn't quite carry it off. He wrote, for example, thick philosophical books which he had printed at his own expense but which no one was able to read entirely because the sentence structure, the style, and, accordingly, the sequence of thought were incomprehensible to everyone. In associations and in meetings he was often a speaker, but his oratorical gifts were also not significant, and a brilliant oratorical performance, well-wrought, strictly logically developed or spiced with clever conceits, was denied him.

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Despite this, he sometimes moved his listeners through his vigorous, emphatic expressions in which one recognized his sincere adherence to his principles. Because of his honesty he was highly respected everywhere, and so he was elected to the city council assembly, and they soon made him into a town councillor - a common method to chill awkwardly noisy and critical people. I still can see the image of his vigorous personality, his flashing dark eyes, his high forehead, and his energetic mouth, and I still can hear his sonorous voice speaking as usual with utter conviction.

He lived in happy marriage with his eight-year older wife whom he married when he was 21-years old and when it was only with the greatest effort that he raised the 200 Thaler for the necessary furnishings.- Aunt Feilchen was really like a modest, lovely violet, always friendly and gentle. I only knew her as a little old lady, but with her lovely face under a white cap, in a simple clean frock, she looked as if she came out of a bandbox, making everyone feel at home. She died suddenly when she was about 80 years old - I believe in 1858.

Uncle Daniel was in religion a free-thinker and in politics a convinced republican. Characteristic is the following: I met my uncle on March 17, 1848, in front of the old museum in the Lustgarten, and, in this exciting time, I asked him, of course, for any news. Without a word he grabbed me and turned me around to face the royal castle, and then he said: "Look for one last time at that barracks; tomorrow, there won't be one stone left standing on another." Then he left me with my mouth agape. The

prophecy was not fulfilled, but the next day was March 18th.

The couple had two children remaining after a daughter, Anna, died in childhood. They were

+1. Eda

+2. Anton, who both came under the influence of the famous preacher Schleiermacher who converted them to Christianity.

Eda was a witty lady, highly educated, especially in music (which in general was much loved and cultivated in the whole Benda family), and she married, when she was already in her late twenties, an architect Hoffmann who was a widower with two grown children (daughter and son). They had together 7 or 8 more children, of whom the greater number died young of a variety of diseases. I cannot forget her greatness of soul in her immeasurable pain, especially once when she lost a charming pair of twin boys within a few hours of each other to cholera. She cannot have lived happily with her husband, because he was

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a brutal, finally half-crazy and dissipated individual who died very old some 10 or 15 years ago.

When Hoffmann came into the family, he was occupied with the building of the new museum. Later he occupied himself with private buildings and probably also with real- estate speculations, and his financial condition may sometimes have been quite precarious. It was his fault that for many years there was a rift between my father and Uncle Daniel, Hoffmann's father-in-law (see manuscript). The tension between them lasted until the death of my brother Carl in 1855; then the relations between the two families became more reasonable (see manuscript).

Some years before this new rift, Mrs. Eda died after having suffered for years with cancer, and I went to the funeral which took place in the mortuary of a cemetery on the Landsberger Chaussee. The mourners had already waited more than a half hour beyond the scheduled time for the service to begin, but the "chief mourner"--the husband--had not come. Everyone became very impatient, and Polizeirat Selmer - a relative of the Hoffmann family, a very sarcastic, humorous gentlemen exclaimed: "Oh, let's not wait any longer, the man forgot the whole shebang". When the funeral music began, a clergyman had not been invited, the mourning husband finally appeared at the last moment.

Of his sons, the lawyer Victor Hoffmann and his wife Anna, nee Schneider, were frequent guests in our home. He was a competent singer

with a powerful bass voice, but a real nut; he died young, having become mentally ill.

Another son, Emanuel, lives here as an administrative judge. I met him in a train compartment when I was traveling from Wiesbaden to Berlin in July, 1870, after the declaration of war against France. He was a youthful student who had left Heidelberg without a second thought along with many other students in order to volunteer for military service, and he then survived the war without injury.

My cousin Anton Benda was a pleasant, congenial man, but I did not see him often. He devoted himself to the building trade, married Miss Agnes Hoffmann, the sister of his brother-in-law, also a likeable person, with whom he lived long and happily in Luebeck where he became the managing director of the Luebeck-Buechener railroad and a well-known and respected personage. He died 5 to 10 years ago and left behind several sons, but I have never met them.

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IV *Siegmund Alexander Benda* was born in 1794 and died in 1864. He took part in the campaigns of 1813 - 1815, first as a volunteer rifleman, then he advanced to officer and was decorated with the Iron Cross (for bravery in the defense of a bridge), without suffering the slightest wound. He married Miss Auguste Rindler, who was the daughter of a small grocer in the Holzmarktstrasse. She died in 1859, about 60-years old, from a heart condition. I remember very clearly the small store in the Holzmarktstrasse, half in the basement, where Aunt Gustchen--every nephew and niece's favorite aunt--grew up.

Uncle Alexander, as he was known especially in the family, devoted himself to stock-exchange transactions as a coutier (a broker who negotiated all business in his own name), with varying success until 1840, but from then on with very good results because he became by far the most respected, the best liked, and the most skilful coutier. The transactions of the stock exchange then and even to the time of uncle's death had neither the expansion nor the importance of later times, but he would almost certainly have died a very rich man if the stupidities of his sons had not forced him to make great sacrifices in the last years of his life. I shall come back to that later. Aunt Gustchen remained all her life a modest, unpretentious lady, but dear, little Uncle liked a little more of the splash, especially after they finished and moved into their new house at Muenzstrasse 18 (about 1846-7), and money ran easily through his fingers.

In their previous lodgings at Muenzstrasse 8, the local color of domestic old Berlin still prevailed, and there it was accordingly simpler, but I spent there many happy hours of my childhood, primarily because of my dear aunt. She was invariably affectionate, and when she gave me a poke in the ribs (which she almost never omitted) and said: "Well, my roly-poly cannon cork", then I felt really cozy. She was as wife and mother one of the most upright natures, and for those less close, she was most congenial. Even when old, she was of pleasing appearance; when young, she is said to have been beautiful. In any case, her too early death was deeply regretted and mourned by all who had known her. Uncle, to outward appearances, was a stark contrast to his wife: as evenly tender and kind as she always was, so one was used to seeing him hot-tempered and abrupt, with his mood ranging from fiercest rage to the most warm-hearted kindness; with it all, he had an enthusiatic heart, going into raptures about nature and art, often quite excessively. I got to know him very well, not only because I saw him often as a child, but I lost sight of him later only rarely, especially as I worked in his office as a young man for several years, and subsequently, at the Exchange, I also had frequent business dealings with him. Characteristic is the fear which all of the children, but especially his own, had of him. In his presence, none of us dared speak or even move. And at the Exchange, he played an odd role: people made fun or laughed about his behavior, but everyone had fear mixed with respect for him. A certin scene repeated itself almost daily. If someone had annoyed him by speech or action which did not suit him, he would push aside the thickest crowd, his arms recklessly spreading out in both directions until the would-be assassin stood alone directly in front of him, and then he would shout and roar, to the mirth of the circle gathered around, and imprecations would fall thick and fast until the poor unfortunate could neither see nor hear. Uncle was never sued for libel; one knew how it was with him, and it was not uncommon that within five minutes of such a scene he would affectionately pinch the cheek of the recent victim. "Kladderadatsch" once gave a humorous description of the doings at the Exchange: In every third line recurred: "Who is screaming? Benda screams!", which later, from a familiar quotation, became a common saying.

For all that, Uncle was a most entertaining, even amiable and cheerful companion, and he was very well-liked in his association of war veterans as a member of the big lodge, where he held high office, and in society. To his social connections, which extended into high society, he owed it that he not only received various decorations from Frederick William IV, but also that he was named to the Privy Council for commerce. In this connection, I

should mention that he became a member of the first board of directors of the Anhalter railroad. When at the end of March, 1848, the militia was formed, he was made a major, that is, the commander of about 20 city districts. That had for him some unpleasant consequences. On June 14th of this crazy year, incited mobs stormed the arsenal and took away a number of the newly invented needle guns before the militia could be moved from all parts of the city to protect government property. When this had been successfully accomplished without the slightest loss of blood, the citizen militias moved back into their districts. In case of new disturbances, our district militia, as all the others, was still assembled, to be precise, at the corner of Schoenhauser Str. and Weinmeisterstrasse, when suddenly, Ehlert, the long-time bookkeeper of my father, white as a sheet, ran toward me to tell me that mobs were demolishing the new and only recently occupied house of my uncle, Muenzstrasse 18, because he had allegedly commanded his militia to shoot at the arsenal and that several people had been killed as a result. There was no truth in this, of course, but the fury of a mob does not examine evidence but acts on impulse.

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I immediately broke rank and informed our captain out loud of the message I had just received and requested that he order the company to hurry as quickly as possible to protect the threatened property and to lead us there, a distance requiring about six minutes. I had come to the wrong person. The captain, a man with a private income by name of Windisch, and even a comrade of my uncle's from the war, declared that he could not move the company out of its district without orders from the major, and all the good philistines were naturally of the same opinion. Instead, I should go to our major, a Mr von Gaertner (an estate owner who resided at the Schoenhauser Tor), make him a report and obtain his permission. There was nothing for me to do but to run at a gallop down the entire old Schoenhauserstrasse for at least 10 minutes in terrible heat, and not a little agitated the while, telling myself that in the time lost not one stone would remain on another of the beautiful new, comfortably furnished house.

When Mr. von Gaertner had heard my report, he immediately commanded his people to move by forced march to the Muenzstrasse, and when I had returned to my company I learned that all danger had passed, that the militia in the district in which the house was located had succeeded in putting to flight the populace. Admittedly, some Venetian blinds which had been lowered in a hurry and a few window panes were

lost to incoming rocks. A large field stone, thrown through blinds and window, rolled to a stop at my aunt's feet as she was hurriedly trying to gather a few necessities. She and uncle had then left by the back door facing the Alexanderstrasse for safety's sake.

I shall mention one more action of my uncle as citizen-"major". On the 9th of October, Wrangel had his just arrived army surround the Gendarmen Markt where the entire militia in wretched, pitiable condition, reduced by desertion to one-tenth, was stationed to protect the National Assembly; it was about 4 p.m., when my uncle negotiated with the "victorious" general the terms for the withdrawal of the citizens and accomplished that it was agreed that this would take place to the sound of our own drums. It was the last time that my uncle, or I, followed the drum--it did not even happen when he was buried in May of 1864. There were no drums or musical accompaniment for the old warrior, but the abovementioned Mr. Windisch and a few more veterans followed dressed in the old uniforms.

As already indicated, the debts of his sons during the last years of my uncle's life brought him great losses and much agitation. (see manuscript)

How much he left behind despite this, I know pretty thoroughly as I was appointed acting executor for Ferdinand Gueterbock who died in 1870, and I served in this capacity from then on. The three sons

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naturally had nothing more to inherit; for the nine children of these, Uncle had specified 20,000 Thaler *per stirpes.* I took the effects in question in charge and paid each of the children their share when they reached majority status. The interest had been paid to the parents quarterly to be used for the children's education. My fellow administrators for the estate were Justizrat Hinschius for the legal side and Wilh. Kahlbaum. The former died at the beginning of the 1870s, and the latter in the 1880s, but he participated in the administration only by his signature.

In respect to religion, uncle had been a free-thinker, and in respect to politics, he had been a loyal monarchist; with his brother Daniel he was always on a war footing. They were after all completely different temperaments, and could not quite "stomach" each other. Apparently, something had also happened between them that separated them.

* mistaken! I met Hinschius in the 80s. CB

Uncle's children were:

+1. Clara, married to a school headmaster Heidemann, first living in

Posen, then in Stettin. - Clara was, from childhood on, a somewhat stiff, proper person, and in later years she tended toward excessive devoutness {bigotry or saintliness?}. She died in the 1880s, her husband some years earlier, and they left six children.

+a. Gustav Heidemann became an officer and died as a major in the artillery. He had married his cousin, Margarethe Teltz, daughter of Franziska, and the widowed daughter is living with her mother.

+b. Victor Heidemann, senior master at the Wilhelms-Gymnasium {High School}, lately "Professor", married to a very nice lady, nee Schmilinsky.

+c. Johannes H. is jurist, I think a junior judge at a regional court outside Berlin, married to a nee Lazarus from Charlottenburg.

+d. Anna, not married and became mentally ill, is said to be well again.

+e. Marie, married to a school headmaster Scheibe in Elberfeld.

+f. Albert, a businessman in America.

?2. Franziska, born about 1823, married the junior partner of the large sugar refinery Jacobs in Potsdam. His name was Emil Teltz, and I will refer

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to his family several more times. Emil T. was an amiable, handsome man, and Franziska is a nice, remarkable little person. Unfortunately, the happy marriage did not last long, because he died after 18 years in the prime of life. The widow is still alive, very active, mentally and physically, though she suffered various misfortunes.

The marriage produced six children:

+a. Margarethe, married to her cousin Gustav Heidemann and , as mentioned above, was widowed early.

+b. Heinrich, initially businessman, but soon changed his vocation to a soldier's profession and died relatively young, I think as a major, after he had been married tó two daughters of a general. After the death of the first, he married her sister who now lives as a widow with her mother-in-law.

+c. Kurt has tried various business positions, also was in America, and is now employed in a modest position in a bank.

+d. Fritz was a physician but seems to have had perverse tendencies because as a married man living in Thuringia he came into conflict with the criminal law in a most unpleasant fashion, and I do not know what has happened to him.

+e. Hans was an architect, moved to America and is said not to be alive anymore.

+f. Georg first was a seaman, then a businessman, married a daughter of the famous ballet-master Hognet, and is also dead.

+3. **Heinrich** born about 1821, died at the beginning of the 1870s as a forest ranger in Charlottenburg (Grunewald). He was married to Anna Knight, a charming, ethereally beautiful person who died just a few years ago after many years of having been very ill. The father of this Anna Knight had been a very wealthy Englishman who lived on his private resources in Potsdam but who wasted his estate in the most foolish way so that at the time of his death, widow and children (he left a son besides the daughter) had not much left. The mother was a born Teltz, cousin of the aforementioned Emil Teltz and the sister of the wife of my cousin Moritz, to be mentioned later.

Heinrich Benda was a handsome fellow, and as he, after he entered the forestry career, could put on the smart uniform of a sharpshooter and could fancy himself an officer, he soon yielded to wasteful tendencies in loose company. He did absurd things, and the worst thing was that the father looked with pride on his fashionable son and declared: "My Heinrich spends a lot of money, but nobly".

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Well, the noblesse in the course of the years became very expensive, and with the moodiness of the Old One, there were very often exciting scenes. After Heinrich's marriage and employment, things got better, but he never got his affairs quite in order, and his brother Johannes probably often had to help by means of his procuration--no doubt by unlawful means.

After his employment in Grunewald, he became allied with the developed and land speculator Quistorp, and at the time of his (Heinrich's) death in 1871, he possessed large plots of land in the west end of Charlottenburg. These, 20 years later, would have brought a large fortune, but I believe that even then the administrators of the estate realized a nice profit so that the widow and children had enough to live comfortably. There were three sons, of which the older two (+Alexander and Richard) went into farming, but only as inspectors or administrators. The third, +Paul, became an Army officer, but when my son Hans served as a volunteer in the same regiment where he was a full lieutenant, he did not acknowledge the relationship.

+4, Johannes, born June 24, 1825, died of typhus in 1869, was almost the same age as I, and, as the two families always lived near each other and we went to the same school, we were much together as children and later

we never lost contact. In his youth a little dissolute, he became a good husband and paterfamilias after he married, at the age of 30, Miss Minna Hauschild, daughter of the owner of a factory for engines in the Neanderstrasse and second-oldest of nine daughters. Shortly after the wedding, his father-in-law died and left some wealth, but Johannes mostly continued to depend on his income from his position in his father's mill, and then he allowed himself to be prevailed upon to misuse his fiducial responsibilities to embezzle. His father later bought him a printing establishment, and Johannes worked hard and dutifully to make a living for his family and to educate the five growing children well; they turned out to be capable and upright. By now, his widow has survived her husband by 32 years. She is an unpretentious but good-natured, dear lady who is very devoted to the family.

+a. Eugen died as a young man in his twenties, had become a businessman, but he was not successful in his brief career.

+b. Marie (a beautiful, darling person) is in every respect happily married to Felix Kuehne, the present owner of the Thomas engine works (at the Gesundbrunnen)

+c. Margarethe married a Mr. Senkbeil who is employed in the abovementioned facory, and she is said to live well in every respect.

+d. Meta unfortunately remained unmarried, even though she would surely have made any reasonable man happy, and incidentally makes a very pretty penny teaching piano, as also does her youngest sister

+e. Elise, diligent and good "Miss", as she also did not find a husband (she gave our Hans Vowinckel his first piano lessons).

+5. Paul, about three years younger than Johannes, was in appearance a pleasant person, and by nature probably also kind-hearted, but from youth on he did not turn out right. Even as a child he was difficult to control, in school he learned as little as possible, and as the weak mother loved him very much and spoiled him, and as the father, involved in his exciting business, paid no attention to his education, he never gained the strength to fight and control his baser propensities. He remained the same even after he married and had two children.

As he was supposed to be, or wanted to be, an agriculturalist, he was sent to various employers and then, when his father took him as manager of his estate at Schoepfurt, he married a Miss Emilie Block, the daughter of an owner of a small property--a thoroughly upright but unattractive lady, inside and out. In Schoepfurt, Paul did the most foolish things and spent money in the most senseless ways. Once, when I was there, he had his sport, even though I scolded him like mad, to destroy the newly built

garden wall of his neighbor who watched the proceedings with a big smile because he knew that the damage had to be repaid threefold.

When the business in Schoepfurt had come to a bad end, Paul was given various posts as a civil servant at modest salary, eventually at a sugar refinery in Stettin where, as no money passed through his hands and his increasing heart disease made him unfit for excesses, he continued for several years until his early death in the mid-1870s. But earlier, still at Schoepfurt, he had done things which from what I heard had brought him into contact with a judge of the criminal court. Whether he was sentenced to prison, or whether he had to go for some time to America, was hushed up; only this much was said in the family, that Paul was responsible for the rapid increase in the severity of his dear mother's heart disease and for her early death. This disagreeable account I can close with the pleasant tidings that two children became upright, decent people even if in very modest circumstances.

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+a. Martha is married to a nursery gardener Schulz who first was employed as head gardener by Siemens in Charlottenburg and then by Kommerzienrat Veit in his park at Lichtenfelde.

+b. Ernst became a businessman, married, and lives as far as I know, in a provincial town in Pomerania where he has a grocery store.
Both children visited me occasionally or sent me New Year's greetings by mail, but it has been some time since I have heard from them.

+c. Max, the third son (sic), about him I could not find out anything.

V. *Sarah* , married to Meyer (stockbroker) lived perhaps for a half year after my birth, and I know nothing about her or about her husband who died before her except that they were much loved in the family. Their children were:

1. David Julius, M.D., employed at the Koenigstaedter theater as a physician, died about 30-years old, unmarried, and reputed to be a very competent person. I never met him personally.

+2. Moritz, Dr. philolog., an amiable modest person. Albeit very learned, he never could bring himself to take the state examinations to be eligible to be employed at public institutions, so that he remained a teacher employed in private schools. He moved in the 1850s to Halle where his sister Bernhardi lived, was highly respected there even though he taught mostly at girls' schools, and was very active following his musical bent in

the Halle singing-academy. Never having married, he died, in about 1890, during a summer vacation in Ilmenau, and he was buried there.

He was one of my best friends! I vividly remember how he came every morning during summer vacations to pick me up, the much younger 13-to 14-year-old boy, to take me swimming and to teach me at the Pfuel'schen Anstalt the elegant dive with a running start in which he so much excelled. Every spring he came to Berlin to visit with his relatives and to spend Easter Sunday with us.

3. Alexander had barely reached adolescence when he died, and I remember seeing him once only when we still lived at the neuen Promenade.

+4. Veit was born in 1820 as the youngest boy among his siblings, received his preparatory education first at the Kauer Institute, then at a technical school, and finally at the Technical Institute under Beuth, worked as a locksmith and joiner, and then he studied to become a civil engineer at Woehlert's engineering works. His industry and his ability earned him first lucrative scholarships and soon also well-paid employment. He won his spurs by introducing a new type of construction for lighthouses, and he built by government order all of them on the German coast of the North- and Baltic-Sea. When in 1872, Berlin wanted to introduce storm-sewers, he supported it significantly by word and deed, and he was ordered by the magistrates, for a study of the project, to make many trips to other cities and to take many measurements in these environs of lakes and rivers. In his specialty he became an authority, received several decorations but was distinguished only very late by being named to the Privy Council for architecture, as in his modesty he never had ambitions to be recognized. His all-too-common name Meyer was converted by royal permission to the more readily differentiated "Veitmeyer" with first initials L. A.; in the family he remained our dear Veit.

For more than 30 years, he was the chairman of the highly respected polytechnic society, and this society ordered a bust of him to be sculpted to celebrate his 25-year anniversary. Also, in the large regional association he occupied a high rank, and when he died in January, 1898, his funeral was conducted with high honors from their headquarters. He died, having also remained single, as a result of an operation for cataracts.

His uprightness, his enthusiasm for everything good and noble, his pleasant society made him many friends in his lifetime, and I shall never forget his loyalty and familial affection. Besides that, he left behind a large estate.

5. Philippine married my uncle Bahn after he had lost his first wife, the

sister of my father; she became the mother of my cousin, Martin Bahn (see below); she was a loving, friendly person and died at the end of the 1850s of cancer, as the majority of her siblings and so many in the family.

+6. **Henriette** (oldest sister) was married to Professor Bernhardy, a full professor at the University of Halle, and she died a few years before him in the 1850s; she had four daughters:

a. Luise, remained unmarried and is mentally ill and institutionalized.
b. Sophie, remained unmarried.
c. Wilhelmine, the same.
d. Therese, now widow of the presiding judge of a provincial court Duetschke, has several children, and is thus the only one through whom the large Meyer family has obtained progeny; her daughter is married to the professor of philosophy Kuebler.

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+7. **Fanny** also remained unmarried; she was for many years a lady companion to a Mr. Lindau, a person living from private investments; after his death, she lived with her brother Veit and died relatively young in the 1860s.

+8. **Minna**, also unmarried, was for many years governess and lady companion in the house of Professor Be (sic) in Dresden. After the death of her sister Fanny, she moved in with her brother Veit, and she died there about 1890; she was an even-tempered, amiable, good individual who to my wife and me was an intimate friend.

VI. *Caroline*, married name Bahn, I never met. Her husband, S. A. Bahn, had a retail store in tailor's cloth, and I remember well his dark, warehouse-like store, Gertraudenstrasse 8; his specialty was in materials for waistcoats, and whoever at that time in Berlin was in need of such went to his store. I remember him as a big, stout man, who with his second wife, Philippine nee Meyer (see above), visited my parents almost every Sunday evening, and, what was most memorable for me, he smoked cigars and always drank tea with rum, never out of a cup but always from a glass. There were five children, four from the first, one from the second wife.

+1. Johanna married a businessman Berendt, dealer in manufactured goods, a very boring gentleman who probably by mistake had swallowed a poker, and it had remained in his body. He was a zealous member of an Old Lutheran congregation, did not permit dancing in his house, never

went to the theater; on the contrary, he went the more regularly to the daily religious services where the people believed that by communal, horridly howling singing they could gain Heaven. I knew only two of the three sons, but these were less devout than their parents.

a.) Emil went to the Navy, became a lieutenant commander and quit the service when he no longer needed it after he married a wealthy wife.

b.) Johannes, a nice guy, became an officer and lives now, as a retired major, on the Rhine (I think).

c.) Paul, whom I did not know, and about whom I also know nothing.

+2. Theodor remained unmarried and, after the death of his father, continued the business. This cousin also belonged to that orthodox, devout congregation, but he was less abstaining from wordly pleasures because I remember very well that, even though he himself did not dance, he was ready to strike up dance music as soon as the young people

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wanted to begin; altogether, he was a dear and good companion, very musical.

+3, Adolph also never married, and he had from youth on a character that was somewhat notorious. When very young, he must have played so many stupid, dissolute tricks that his father thought it necessary to advertise in the newspapers that he would not be responsible for his debts. Then he was an actor, hired for some provincial scribbles, but he would tell later about himself that he was usually booed off the stage. After that he went to Warsaw, and it was said that there he was a police spy or censor. When he reappeared in Berlin five years later, he never spoke about Poland. He was then still a young man, about 30-years old; the thick hair of his head, already completely gray, a face which was not unhandsome, a jet-black mustache and dark, flashing eyes--all attracted attention to his appearance. He moved much in theatrical circles, wrote some plays, including some one-act plays he had translated from the French. The latter found favor, and these were often played, thus he quickly became an oft-mentioned personality in Berlin. His literary talents were not much, but as an amusing companion he was much liked. How he made his living, or even accumulated a little money, has not become quite clear. To be sure, in his later years he became thrifty, even stingy, and he understood well how to live at the expense of others and never to reciprocate social obligations; also he had himself titled as Doctor. When he became older, he moved permanently to Wiesbaden where he died at the

end of the 1880s, about 60-years old. His brother Martin found in his estate no effects which were especially valuable, but, for example, 20 pairs of boots which still had a lot of wear in them, and the manuscripts of some poems crammed full of virulent anti-Semitism. In my father's accounts, there was noted a loan of 500 Thaler to him which we heirs immediately cancelled as a bad debt. All-in-all, Adolph Bahn was an interesting creature, and I also did not dislike him.

4. **Emilie**, in the recollections of my childhood, appears as a charmingly lovely creature; she was approximately the same age as my sisters and, therefore, often with us in the sociability of our home, which my mother instigated. It soon became evident that she had an understanding with a young physician, Dr. Adolph Faudel, a slender, very smart gentleman, who, naturally, also became a friend of the family. I can still see him as he executed with

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consummate dexterity his part of the quadrille - in those days one still danced the learned routines entirely according to the rules. Dr. Faudel probably was a better dancer than physician, because after he had failed the state examination several times, he found it necessary to change occupations. He married his Emilie after an eight-year engagement and entered the book trade, but this did not work out and also needed soon to be abandoned. F. then found employment with Wolff's telegraph office.

The devoted love of many years' standing ended badly in marriage. My wife and I attended their silver anniversary, but even then it was rumored that the bond between them had long since been loosened, that he had entered into a secondary marriage which had been blessed with a number of children. Emilie a few years later did separate from her husband and lived with her daughter in Rostock. I met her one more time before her death when she was here to visit her brother Martin; she was an old lady without a trace of her blooming youth. Him, too, I met once on a bus 15 or 20 years ago; he was a bent, disabled man in shabby, slovenly clothing, and I compared in a melancholy mood his present appearance with my memory of him in the full enjoyment of life with his fine youthful appearance.

Two children sprouted from this marriage.

a. Lina (Caroline) visited frequently at my home as a lively, pretty girl. She had an attractive, well-schooled soprano voice, and she brought along as her fiance a young philologist, Dr. Boegemann, who sang bass. When

they wanted to get married, they were short 180 Thaler (540 Mark) for furniture, and he borrowed it from me after sending me a long letter in which he solemnly gave his word of honor that he would pay me back within a year at 5% interest. I gave him the money and told him that I would not require any interest. Did my cooperation perhaps insult him? In any case, the old saying was proved again that if one wants to get rid of good friends, one should loan them money. I never saw either of them again, and D. B. also did not think it fit voluntarily to pay me back his debt of honor. He had moved to Rostock, and there he had taken over a girls' school which did very well and which provided the couple with a thoroughly secure living. About ten years later, I told this loan episode to Veit Meyer and Martin Bahn; both were highly indignant and insisted that I demand my money back. As a result, I wrote Dr. B a courteous letter requesting payment, but I received no answer - not a word of apology, which made me so indignant that I turned the matter over to my lawyer. His request for repayment of the principal and interest was answered by return mail with the repayment of the principal; payment of the interest was refused

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because I had voluntarily given up any claim for interest (see manuscript), and I spared him further unpleasantness by not insisting on the interest which by rights was mine.

Mrs. Lina is said to have died several years ago.

b. Max was a decent, nice person, but I cannot recall what profession he entered. He was in the war of the 1870s, came back unhurt, then went to Vienna, married, and died soon thereafter, still very young.

+5. Martin, son of the second wife, was through his father my step-cousin, and through his mother, my first cousin once removed. He was about the same age as I, only a half-year younger, and remains, as fortunately he is still alive, one of my best friends. As a result of the intimate terms of friendship among our parents, we were often together in our youths, but we became separated in early manhood for a time because of his happy talent for singing as well as his vivacious sociability; he was drawn to social circles to which I was a stranger. He chose a career as publisher and bookseller and took over the renowned Trautwein book and music business--both publishing and retail--and with his musical understanding, he very much got it going. When he gave up the retail trade (by now 15 or 20 years ago), he had made a nice fortune; he has

continued with the publishing part which is very lucrative. During a journey, he had met and fallen in love with Miss Sophie Schelle, the daughter of a businessman from Bremen, and he married her in the year 1854. She was a capable, brave, and clever lady who provided for her husband not only a most pleasant home, but who also, by her even, friendly, and sociable personality maintained a nice circle of friends.

My wife felt herself profoundly attracted to Sophie Bahn, and they remained until the end on the most cordial terms. In the last years before her death in 18--, she {Sophie} suffered greatly. Having been tubercular when young, she again became ill with this disease; one leg was attacked, and after she had been confined to bed with great pain for nearly five years, which she endured with the patience of an angel, it was decided to amputate the leg to the upper thigh. She survived the operation very well, but the hope that she would be able to move on her own with crutches was not realized; she always had to be carried from place to place, but she regained her pleasure in life, until the insidious disease finally carried her off a few years later. The marriage remained childless.

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VII. *Therese*, married name Weber. I neither met her nor him because, before my birth, he was moved as director of police to Koblenz. From the conversations of my parents, I gathered that they were very pleasant people, nurturing sociability in their home, and especially cultivating music. About 1833, they emigrated to America due to an unfortunate incident--my aunt had secretly bought a shawl which later proved itself to have been stolen. They settled on the banks of the Missouri, built a log house, and intended to lead an idyllic life on the land they had purchased, tillers of the soil and husbandmen in an existence not yet contaminated by the ills of civilization. It went with them, as with many others at the time, that raw reality quickly destroyed their dream. They had to bear the most terrible privations and the most laborious work, and the profits from the products which they harvested were difficult or impossible to realize, given the deficient transportation system and the sparsely distributed population. At the right moment, they decided at any cost to convert their investment into money and to move to the flourishing city of St. Louis where they founded a music business and achieved a secure existence.

The marriage produced five children, about whom over the decades..., news sometimes reached us, and even, occasionally, personal contact. At the present time, and, for some time now, all contact has been lost.

+1. Gottwald

+2. Heinrich, as a young man, was in Berlin in the summer of 1847 to visit the family. He was of advantageous bearing and appearance, but I did not get to meet him at the time as I was in Stettin.

+3. Ida, married to Warrens; the latter is said to have been a wealthy, respected Yankee. Of their children, there suddenly appeared here in 1860 a daughter, Miss Hill, and stayed with Uncle S. A. Benda for a longer period of time. She was a tall, elegant, fashionable person. That she traveled alone in the world was, for an American lady, nothing so remarkable; on the other hand, the very easy manner of her relationship with the builder Schulz, a brother-in-law of the wife of the privy councilor for business, Kahlbaum, was a little problematic, and Uncle Alexander was glad when she finally moved on. About her subsequent stay in Europe there were all sorts of rumors, and one does not know what in the end happened to her.

+4. Bertha, married name Berenz, about whom I was not able to find out any particulars.

+5. Therese, married name Balmer, came to Berlin in the 1860s, and she stayed here for a longer period for the treatment of a sick child.

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VIII. *Gutchen* was married to businessman Borchard in Coeslin. I never met her even though she died as a widow in 1850, 72 years of age. Her husband had died already in 1836. There is nothing special to report about the couple; they had three daughters.

1. Sarah married a landowner Natusius, living in Pomerania, and he came frequently to Berlin; however, as far as I know I never met my cousin. Natusius had been a dancing master, and he retained a cheerful, frisky manner all his life. He liked to tell all sorts of yarns. I have remembered the following story which I recount under the motto: Naturalia non sunt turpia.

When King Frederick William IV was traveling in Pomerania, there suddenly appeared on Natusius' estate a courier with the message that the king would arrive in ten minutes and that he urgently needed to complete a proceeding. Well, as the accommodations for this purpose were absolutely not royal, N. decided on the spot to remove the defective cane from a caned chair, wrapped the remaining wood tightly with clean hand towels and placed under it a pretty china pail which, as luck would have it, was on hand. The king arrived, rushed into the house, was led into a quiet room and reappeared after a while with a very satisfied expression. He

also expressed his satisfaction by giving N.'s servant a Friedrichsd'or {a Prussian gold coin}. Thus this exciting episode ended well, even better, as it also benefited his land.

The couple had five children

a. Minna married Dr. Eichelbaum in Koenigsberg.

b. Julie married a dealer in hops in Bamberg.

c. Rosa married the brother or cousin of Julie's husband, and both couples became very rich.

d. Otto after he had lived here for a few years, went to Kansas or Texas, married there and became prosperous. When the Civil War broke out, as a fanatic opponent of the emancipation of the slaves, he took part on the side of the South, became a major, and, after the defeat of what he had fought for, he soon returned to Europe and lived here with his family on his private investments until his death, about a year ago, about 72 years old.

e. Berthold is still alive as a rich businessman in Hamburg.

2. Johanna married Dr. Davidsohn who had been a physician in Prenzlau and who died there 40 to 45 years ago. She then moved here with her four children, lived on her modest fortune as a lady of independent means, and died about five years ago.

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Several times, as a young girl, she had been a guest in the house of my parents for weeks.

Her children were:

a. Otto, who entered into the business of a wine wholesaler in Mainz, married his daughter, took over the business after his father-in-law had withdrawn, and still continues with it. The marriage, however, was very unhappy because of incompatibility on both sides, and they were divorced after several years; several children exist.

b. Antonie married Dr. Oppenheimer, preacher of the local Reform Jewish Congregation that boycotted him when a daughter of his married a Christian and let herself be baptized. Antonie came to Berlin as a pretty, vivacious 17-year-old girl, and I had a crush on her for some time. She then went to Hungary as a governess, and there she met her intended.

c. Auguste married here a businessman named Arnheim. Both have died and left no children behind.

d. Elise remained unmarried and still lives here.

+3. Laura married Kanitz, a private school teacher in Coeslin. This couple

did not do particularly well financially. They had to endure many privations, and when not yet old, they died and left behind seven children.

+a. Anna married a vicar Thiele in Kuestrin, and she lives now as a widow in Carlshorst near Berlin.

+b. Elizabeth

+c. Martha, both remained unmarried and have already died.

+d. Johannes is an ecclesiastical councillor in Priegnitz.

+e. Clara is married to a pastor named Kolbe.

+f. Carl is a businessman, and I know nothing more about him.

+f. Paul appears to have completely gone under.

IX. *Rosa* was married to Sussmann who was a businessman. About both of them, who died before my time, I know no particulars, but all the more about their progeny. There were three children.

1. Henrietta was married to an outside broker at the stock exchange named Meier, and as this couple lived at Muenzstrasse 1, directly across from us, I would be caught, as a 6-year old and without any idea of the close relationship, "because I was so cute" by the cousins (the Meier children), taken to their home, and hugged and squeezed. They were, with the exception of the oldest, Bertha, anything but attractive, in part even frighteningly ugly. The couple died about 1845, and I lost sight of the children (six) later on.

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There were:

a. Bertha married a Mr. Jacob Meier, no relation, who founded a factory on the large area of Koepernickerstrasse 18-20, and who carried on the business under the name of Breslauer & Meier; it was liquidated in the 1870s and sold to M. Mengers for the construction of his velvet factory. The Meier factory manufactured something, but I cannot now recollect what. Jacob Meier appears to have become a wealthy man, but I do not know whether he left much as he got involved in a variety of real estate 'enterprises'. Thus, he built large family homes on the land of the former Griebenow estate by the Schoenhauser Tor, but I do not know with what success, as already indicated.

Bertha had a face pleasant to look at and full of life and wit, and she, like her husband, was involved in socially beneficial endeavors. I still spoke to her occasionally in later years. A son of hers, Victor, who unfortunately died early, was, because of his exceptional abilities, already

a full professor at Heidelberg when in his twenties; a daughter is married to the well-known sculptor, Johannes Pfuhl.

b. Rosalie I remember totally because of her repulsive ugliness; she was cross-eyed and had bad, protruding teeth. In the whole family she was known as the 'rosemaiden', because she had appeared in a rose-colored, low-cut dress with roses in her hair for the party on the eve of my sister Coelestina's wedding. My mother never could forget the humor of the contrast for the remainder of her life. Despite it all, Roeschen is said to have managed to hold on to a respected, prosperous husband.

c. Clara

d. Auguste. Of these two I cannot report any particulars.

e. Leopold was about the same age as I and also a student with me at the Marggraf school, so that as a child I frequently got to enjoy his company, even though it never was particularly congenial to me. His looks were very disadvantageously Jewish, and he suffered from a permanent cold that clogged his nose. When at the beginning of the 1850s, the California Gold Rush was in full swing, he went there with his brother, but he returned to Berlin after a few years without having achieved compensation for the hardships he had endured. He later found a position at the North German Iceworks, and he was called by his city acquaintances "Eismeier". In the family, he had achieved the nickname "Pottmeier" because that is how the receptionist at Rudolph's had understood him due to his cold, and she had so announced him. Moreover, he once borrowed 75 Thaler from me and cheated me because, contrary to my expectations, he promptly paid them back. He died in the 1880s and is said finally to have been very devoted to alcohol.

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f. David was a quiet, introspective person about whom there is little to be said. He died after a few years in America, also without having achieved material success. He had married, and he had left behind an orphaned daughter who was then raised here by her aunt Bertha.

+2. Alexander was married to a Wiesenthal with whose brother he established the well-known factory for shawls and kerchiefs, under the company name of Sussmann and Wiesenthal, after he had been in England for a longer period of time. I do not recall whether he had been married there and whether his whole family had been baptized there. Here, in their household, the demeanor was elegant, somewhat stiff with English reserve, but for all that, hospitable and pleasant. As a youngster, I was

very often invited there and can truly say that I spent happy hours there. The children of the house and a number of lively young people who were their friends contributed to this enjoyment. I still remember the later well-known sculptor Wittig and the later vicar Rau in Potsdam who at that time was a candidate and a funny, original person.

When the two founders of the factory died one shortly after the other in the 1850s--Wiesenthal is said to have had a nervous breakdown as a result of the excitement of March 18th {1848}--the financial position of the company was very much in decline, and the factory could not be salvaged for the Sussmann family; the company was taken over by the Wiesenthal stepson Carl Koehne and the long-time junior partner Halberstadt (and later, also, cousin Reinhold Moritz), and the company then again revived vigorously. The deterioration of the financial position in which Aunt Sussmann and her children found themselves, on the other hand, could not be reversed--a sad illustration of the vicissitudes of life! Seven children:

+a. Amalie married a businessman Hehnl in Munich who, I believe, had a respected position in good circumstances; she is said to have become mentally ill.

+b. Luise married a Pastor Spormann from a little hole in Pomerania in Westprussia. How this marriage could occur with the boring stranger who suddenly appeared on the scene was unclear to the young friends of the house; however, we all gladly took part in a play written by Rau for the eve of the wedding. I don't know how this marriage turned out.

+c. Charlotte, at the time the beauty of the family, a little curly-head, was engaged for several years to a friend of her brother, a dissolute painter (Steinel or Steinle), until one day he disappeared. After the dissolution of the family home, she lived together with her mother outside Berlin in very straitened circumstances and probably is no longer alive; she remained unmarried.

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+d. Alexandrine was not pretty but a clever, entertaining and quite musical person, married a teacher Oehler in Halle and still lives there as a widow with several children. The family had to fight against many privations to make their way.

+e. Franziska, really the cutest of the five, took her cousin Albrecht Moritz as husband; it was not a happy marriage. They moved to Rheydt in the Rhineland where he settled down as a private architect and where I visited them in the early 1860s; they later separated. He moved to

Duesseldorf, and she remained in Rheydt in precarious circumstances.

+f. Karl devoted himself to portrait and historical painting but had no success; He was altogether of an unsteady nature and died very suddenly, still young in years, about 1850 (not to be confused with Carl Sussmann, cousin from the Riess family side).

+g. William, a little older than I, was a companion of my youth and was one of my closer friends until our relationship came to a sudden end in 1859. W. was a sociable, shrewd fellow who, despite this, was unable to achieve a permanent position. He wanted to work in the factory of his father, but, whether by dogmatically insufferable behavior or whatever, after the founders were dead, he must have placed himself wrongly so that in the reorganization of the business he was out in the cold. Then he tried various connections, and he also suggested to me, when he heard that I wanted to establish my own business, that I should offer him a suitable position in it. When I had to decline to do so for very understandable reasons, he took my refusal so amiss that, from then on, he totally cut me off. He associated himself with a brother of his late wife, Emil Miller, in a stock-exchange transaction; the thing lasted only a very short time and had such a bad end that both gentlemen very quickly had to absent themselves to foreign parts. William went to London and made his living, how I do not know, as a commercial agent. He also married again over there and is said to be still alive. Once or twice, in the meantime, he returned to Berlin, visited some relatives but ignored me completely. Before these events, he had married in 1851 (or 1852) a Miss Luise Miller, an attractive, beautuful girl, the niece of the respected and prosperous stockbroker Kirchheim. She died after three-quarters of a year of childbed fever at the birth of her daughter. This daughter was raised by the aunts when the father again began a merry bachelor's existence and inherited, as far as I know, about 40,000 Thaler

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from her old great-uncle and lived, after the Miller family was dead and gone, from the interest of this capital as a lonely, unmarried lady. I tried, when she was grown, to have some contact with her socially, but she could not get on well with my children, and so the attempt soon faltered. The reason why father and daughter totally parted company has remained inexplicable to me.

+3. Moritz converted to Christianity and, on that occasion, took the name Moritz as a family name; he took part in the War of Liberation and

suffered, at the last battle near Waterloo, a shot to the head which cost him one eye so that he, healed, always wore a black patch over it. He married a Miss Teltz, sister of the abovementioned Mrs. Knight, the mother-in-law of Heinrich Benda and the aunt of Emil Teltz (as she also was). Moritz was employed as a civil servant by the 'General-Commission', first as accountant in Soldin, then in Frankfurt (Oder), and moved to Berlin around the end of the 1850s when he had to be pensioned off because of illness. Both husband and wife soon died thereafter.

They had six children:

+a. Marie was in Berlin already for a visit around 1840 as a very young and pretty girl, married later a Major Lehmann who was domiciled here, a fine figure of a man, but he, as a companion-in-arms of her father, was considerably older than she. When she became a widow after about ten years of marriage, she stayed in Berlin, lived from her modest pension, and died about 1885 without offspring.

+b. Albrecht became an architect. He always had had something gloomy, uncommunicative about him, married, as already mentioned his cousin, Franziska Sussmann; the marriage was not a happy one so that they later separated without ever becoming divorced. He still lives, I believe, in Duesseldorf. I do not know any particulars about their four or five children.

+c. Emmy was also a strikingly pretty girl, perhaps 18-years old, when she came for a visit to Berlin and--like her sisters Marie and Anna--she was often in my parent's home. There she met Bollmann, later a teacher at the school 'am Kloster', who was at our home as a student and friend of my brothers. The mutual sentiments that developed between him and Emmy were very noticeable, but they did not lead to an engagement because friend Bollmann realized that he must acquire an idol edged in gold (which he then also later did). Emmy later met Luis Rudolph at the wedding of William Sussmann; he was a weaver with Sussmann and Wiesenthal, and he fell in love with her, he asked for her hand, and he received it too. Rudolph was an upright, extraordinarily circumspect, and effective businessman. He founded a manufacturing business to finish cloth, "Friedlaender & Rudolph", with his just-named partner,

and he managed to bring it to great respect and a nice fortune. The marriage also was a very happy one although the wife unfortunately soon became sickly; however, she outlived her husband, who died in 1882, by

more than ten years. She was a very close friend of my wife, and we spent many pleasant hours with the highly interesting, steadfast husband and the good wife, especially as the two maintained a home that was very hospitable. Of the three children, the oldest, "Marie", died of consumption after a brief marriage to Georg Kuehne (bother of Felix Kuehne), and, eight weeks later, the husband was found dead with a shot through the temple; it was maintained that it was an accidental discharge of his revolver (he had been called in for military exercises). The second daughter, "Margarethe", married Krupp, a very wealthy owner of a large factory at Berndorf near Vienna, but they have no children. The son, Franz, married to Martha Wolff, also childless, has now liquidated the factory which he had continued to run after it had long ceased to yield any profit, whether because of the tide of business or of severe competition.

+d. Anna appeared in Berlin as a young 15-year-old girl at the wedding of Luise Sussmann, a fine, tall figure but not anywhere as pretty as her two previously named sisters. Later, she met the lithographer Theodor Wendisch and married him after he had founded here a lithographic shop (perhaps with the help of Luis Rudolph) in the year 1859. Th. W. was a most decent, amiable guy, diligent and efficient, so that his business flourished, and when he died in 1891, he was able to leave his family a nice fortune. Anna was a most good-natured creature, but there clung to her something pedantically provincial which even prompted her husband to make fun of her and which gave her the nickname "Frau Buchholtzen" in the family. Despite this, the couple and my wife and I were intimate friends until the end. Anna also died a few years ago, and there remain the two sons, Reinhold and Alfred.

+e. Helene was an unhappy person, dissatisfied with the world because she was not pretty, and she had difficulty making herself understood due to a harelip that hindered her speech. She remained unmarried and also has passed away.

+f. Reinhold was the youngest and had an engaging personality. He entered the Sussmann & Wiesenthal factory as an apprentice, and he must have been so useful that he later was accepted as a silent partner. He married then a Miss Adolpha Jekel, who, as a strict Catholic, not only kept all the customs prescribed by her religion, but also specified as a precondition to marriage that any eventual

children be raised accordingly. Reinhold, who in this matter was

indifferent and who also remained a Protestant, agreed to this, and the marriage was a thoroughly happy one, as Adolpha otherwise proved herself to be a clever and agreeable lady. Reinhold unfortunately became sickly early on and died about six years ago; his wife lives in Berlin. There were several children of whom the oldest, Karl, became an exceptionally capable architect (Karl Moritz Eduard, Dr. Ing.)

X. *Marianne* , married name Ende, was the youngest sister of my father and the only one of the sisters whom I still knew personally. She had married a simple but honorable man--a worker in gold by the name of Ende, and I believe that I heard that she had met him when he was a non-commissioned officer in the Alexander regiment, from which it later became explicable to me why she was regarded by the whole family as a sort of something to be unnoticed; I cannot remember ever to have seen the couple at any family get-together or the like. The husband, who in my time had a small jewelry store in the old Schoenhauserstrasse, gave the impression of a decent, quiet person; I remember her as an older, embittered, unpretentious lady. As a child living in the immediate neighborhood I would visit them sometimes. Both died shortly one after the other, and they left a son.

Emil Herrmann was a little younger than I, a shy, overly reserved person with whom one could not establish any familial intimacy and who, therefore, found no entry in the entire family. He became a businessman, was for some years in the business of Uncle Alexander, then found a position at the Disconto Corporation, married (without any announcement), and then disappeared from view.

APPENDIX

For the Jews of Berlin, the nineteenth century brought an extraordinary increase in personal freedom, particularly in the choice of occupation and in the choice of religion. The final legal impediments against Jews as Jews were lifted in Prussia in 1869. It is perhaps worth noting that the legal discrimination by and large had been against the practitioners of the Jewish faith and not, as became so popular in the twentieth century, against the Jewish "race".

To have a concept of the life of Jews in Berlin in the generation before Ernst Benda, some indication of the economic and legal conditions then pertaining may be of interest The following is my partial translation of pages 1 to 17 of the Introduction of "Die Judenbuergerbuecher der Stadt Berlin 1809 - 1851" by Jacob Jacobson and published by Walter de Gruyter & Co., Berlin, 1962.

Ernst Kaeber reported in 1934 in the introduction to his books of Citizens and Records of Proceedings of Berlin 1701 - 1750 ("Buergerbuecher und Buergerprotokollbuecher Berlins von 1701 - 1750") that baptized Jews received the freedom of a company or municipal citizenship without fee. Also, Christian masters who married baptized Jewish women received municipal citizenship gratis. In the books of Jewish citizens of Berlin (JBB), the first case of citizenship without fee appears on July 22, 1816. It was granted to a nailsmith who had earned this privilege through participation in the War of Liberation. What a long journey it had proved to be until Jews could become municipal citizens in any Prussian city, from a path made possible by conversion to the governing religion to a right following service in wartime.

From the middle of the eighteenth century on, the boundaries of the political, economic, and social life of the Jews within the state of Brandenburg/Prussia were delimited by the Revised General Privileges and Rules of April 17, 1750. As everywhere in Germany, the object of these rules was to hold the number of Jews within the state within strictly defined limits, to permit them only exactly determined occupations within the state's own economy, and to exact a maximum of tax and contributions for protection and toleration. Friedrich Wilhelm I { Frederick William I } in his regulations of May 20, 1714, and of September 29, 1730, had granted to the Jews the "settling", i.e. the marriage and right of residence, for more than one child--given proof of sufficient wealth--which necessarily led to the number of families to exceed the statutory limit. Friedrich der Grosse

{Frederick II or the Great} attempted to counter this by introducing in the Rules of 1750 a differentiation between ordinary and extraordinary Jews living under the protection of the authorities. The ordinary protected Jews were allowed to settle one child only, while the extraordinary protected Jews, as well as the widows of protected Jews and the remaining children of protected families, had protection for their own person only. Accordingly, there were in Berlin 203 classified as ordinary Jews and 63 classified as extraordinary Jews. In addition, there were in Berlin twenty categories of 'servants to the public', i.e. servants of the Jewish Community --they could not engage in trade--which extended from the senior rabbi and his judicial assistants to the gravedigger, from the doctor of the Jewish hospital to the married schoolmasters for girls.

The Jewish Community as such had its firmly delineated character based on age-old tradition and religious-national laws, and it was relatively free from the intervention of the state. The Community was guaranteed a strong measure of its own jurisdiction, and for its religious observances it was shown extensive consideration. The Community also had to fulfill police functions allotted by the state. In place of the tax paid individually by each Jew living under the protection of the authorities, there was an ever increasing lump sum total. For its prompt and complete payment, also for the delivery of silver for the coinage--this from 1766 on--as well as the payment of calendar fees to the Academy of Sciences for the Hebrew calendar, the recruit tax, and all the other diverse taxes of each province, for all that the Jews of each province were responsible as a unit. Each Community was held responsible for all thefts, all receipt of stolen goods, and for any premeditated bankruptcies which occurred in its midst.

The economic sphere of activity of the Jews was precisely delimited. They were excluded from all manual labor represented by a guild; only the occupations of seal engraver, painter, embroiderer in silver or gold, plain needleworker, Kraetzwaescher { a person who cards and cleans raw wool ?}, as well as lens grinder and diamond cutter were permitted. Their domain was trade, especially the trade in luxury goods, in money (money changer or banker), in real estate, trade with manufactured goods, horses, or produce, or trade in old clothes or second-hand furniture. Chapter 18 of the General Privileges and Rules of Frederick II delimited precisely the trade permitted to Jews, while other trade was permitted only in part--for their own use--and still other was prohibited. Any encroachment into one of the areas of trade prohibited to them required a special dispensation. The Jews of Berlin were only permitted to own about 40 houses.

This almost total preoccupation with trade as the source for earning their livelihood influenced their interaction with the people around them and evoked in part an unfavorable response. Their exotic appearance and the differences in religion and religious practices further separated them and created a distorted image of the Jew and of the ideas that dominated him.

During the course of his reign, Frederick the Great felt compelled to mitigate especially irksome regulations of the General Privileges and Rules governing the Jews. Thus he was forced by the financial exhaustion of the Seven-Year War again to broaden the right of residence for which the entire Jewish population of his state had to pay 70,000 Reichsthaler, and the Jews in Berlin could become owners of another 30 houses. Through a grant of 'Generalschutzprivilegien' (privilege of general protection) to bankers, entrepreneurs, and manufacturers whose activities benefited his economic policies and his political goals, he also breached that part of his legislation which concerned his population policies for Jews. Those who were rewarded with this special privilege could have all their children settled as residents. Others, if they wished the privilege of residence for a second child, were obligated to export annually manufactured goods made locally worth 1,500 Rtl. From 1769 on, there was the irksome and burdensome requirement to purchase porcelain from the Royal porcelain factory which was added to the cost to obtain rights. In the end, the Jews as a unit were obligated to deliver silver to the mint at great loss and to take possession of enterprises that were doing poorly, such as the factory at Templin for caps, stockings, bolting cloth, and blonde.

The hand of Frederick the Great lay heavy on the Jewish population of his state, heaviest on those who, as a result of their poverty or the lack of really useful employment, did not fit into the economic scheme of the state. After the first division of Poland, Frederick the Great ordered the many poor Jews found in his newly acquired lands, the so-called beggar Jews, removed, but they should be removed 'successively and without violence'; and, in fact, during his reign, despite the passive resistance of the higher Civil Service entrusted with the execution of this order, more than 7,000 Jews in all of Westpreussen were prevailed upon to emigrate.

The rich bankers, jewelers, minters, and manufacturers favored by the king came into closer contact through their business activity with the upper layers of society, businessmen, civil servants, bankers, and intellectuals, under circumstances more likely to foster mutual respect and understanding. It was bound to happen that they would go beyond the traditional Jewish education which sharpened intellect and memory and

that they would approach the world of ideas that dominated their time. But especially in this area, and because they had advanced to an extraordinarily cultured and elevated social situation, they must have felt particularly painfully the barriers that separated them from equal civic rights and equal civic honor granted to their otherwise equivalent social circle. They had to aspire to eliminate these barriers and to free the community, of which they were the exemplary representatives, from the contempt and mistrust that fenced it in.

Though certainly not the first to do so, Heinrich Schnee has emphasized that the upper crust of the Jewish population which was distinguished by its property and education--he refers to it collectively under the broadly conceived term 'Hoffinanz' (literally, court finance)--took the initiative in the fight to gain equal civic rights. It is to its lasting credit that it did not avoid this fight and accepted the responsibility not only for itself, but for the totality, to obtain opportunities for advancement of civic freedom.

This upper crust realized clearly that such advancement had to be accompanied by a willingness to add new values to the old inherited values and to accommodate the surrounding culture and customs. To be sure, disappointment in the slow pace of reform led by the turn of the century to phantastical errors which significantly undermined the Jewish position, errors only to be explained by a despairing impatience, misjudgment of religious conditions, and underestimation of the popular mood.

On January 4, 1786, Moses Mendelssohn died, the businessman and philosopher who had demonstrated in his own person the reconciliation of Jewish lifestyle and Jewish scholarship with the ideas of the Age of Enlightenment, the man who was to point the way for the loosening of the bonds of intellectual Jewish life.

On August 17, 1786, Frederick the Great died. His passing was noted also in the synagogues in official services, as, in other times, his victories had been celebrated. Even in the register of deaths of the Berlin Jewish Community, there was an entry in the midst of the others in Hebrew letters and with Jewish and German dates that 'the King Frederick the Second, the King' had died, and this, in the seclusion of the list of the dead, signified even more than the public, solemn manifestations of loyalty.

Frederick the Great's nephew and successor, Frederick William II, did not stint on granting Generalschutzprivilegien and granting the same rights to well-to-do Jews as had Christian bankers and businessmen. He also lifted on December 12, 1787, the demeaning liability to pay custom duty on one's person for the Jews of his state, and, a half year later, also for the

Jews from elsewhere , who traveled to Frankfurt-an-der- Oder to attend the fairs which were so important for east-west trade. In the beginning of 1788, he also eliminated the onerous porcelain impost for a single payment of 40,000 Rtl. But the efforts by the 'general representatives of all inland Jews' thoroughly to reform all the laws of Frederick the Great that affected Jews--which dragged on over many years--were destined to failure for the time being. Only this much was accomplished, that after 1792 each Jewish Community no longer was responsible as a unit for the special individual taxes imposed on Jews.

Through the acquisition of the Polish-Prussian provinces Sued- und Neuostpreussen with their exceedingly numerous Jewish population, the Prussian government saw itself facing new, severe problems, problems which it tried to solve through the Generaljudenreglement (general regulation of Jews) of April 17, 1797.

The efforts of the Jewish leaders in the old provinces continued unabated. They had at least this much success, that Frederick William III on July 18, 1801, abolished the Jewish Communities' responsibility for thefts, receipt of stolen goods, and for premeditated bankruptcies, and with that removed a statute--that besides being actually unenforcible--had deeply offended their sense of honor.

It may seem strange that, at the beginning of this fight for equal rights, a single family achieved for itself that which was denied--for a long time to come--to the Community whom they led in this fight. But one would hardly go wrong in the assumption that this first and singular success was considered, so to speak, a model for that which was generally sought. At the head of the general representatives of the Jewish Communities of Prussia--together with the banker Jacob Moses--was the banker Daniel Itzig, born in Berlin in 1723. His father before him, the horse dealer Isaac Daniel, had under Frederick William I in 1727 achieved the right for residence of all his children. He himself received in 1761, as reward for service to the state as minter, a Generalschutzprivileg which was extended to include his circle of relatives. He continued also as minter after the end of the Seven-Year War in grand style, invested his wealth in industrial enterprises, bought houses and landed property, and, among other things, built at great cost a splendid residence in the Burgstrasse. It contained--and that characterizes it enough--among its features a picture gallery and a private synagogue. The position of preference of the father passed to the son who understood how to insure the favor of the new king, Frederick William II. This son, Isaac Daniel Itzig, who was Oberhofbankier { senior banker to the court } and overseer of road construction, and his brother-

in-law, David Friedlaender, originally from Koenigsberg i. Pr., a silk manufacturer and author, were the most active representatives of the movement to transform Jewish life. Toward this goal they had founded in 1778 the Jewish free school of Berlin, and they made representations to the government , with diligence and dignity, of the wish of the Jewish colony that' the shackles be not loosened but removed' and that the Jews should be granted the same rights as the rest of the population.

Their influence, their demeanor, and their refinement were so notable that to their family circle--and to it alone--was granted an Ausnahmeprivileg { an exceptional privilege }. On May 2, 1791, the banker Daniel Itzig and his legitimate progeny of both sexes were 'naturalized' and granted all the rights of Christian citizens in all the Prussian states and lands. They were to be considered and treated as a family of Christian citizens, consequently with equal rights with Christian citizens 'and exempt from what the Jews with a general privilege were required to pay'. For this loss of the special Jewish taxes, the family was required to pay 15,000 Rtl to the Invalidenkasse {old-age pension fund} to receive the naturalization certificate.

An immediate consequence of the naturalization certificate, which contained but few stipulations, was that on March 20, 1792, the old Daniel Itzig and his four sons and his six sons-in-law living in Berlin were admitted to municipal citizenship. They had to swear the civic oath according to the customs of their religion, which meant that according to the stipulations of the naturalization certificate, they had to swear the oath in the form required of Jews. The oath, as shown in the general burgess rolls, differed from the usual oath only in its conclusion which reads ' So help me Jehova, the true God'.

Among those who by marriage into the Itzig family in 1791 received the municipal citizenship was Abraham Mendelssohn, the father of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy. In Koenigsberg also, two Jewish businessmen were helped by the naturalization certificate to become citizens. They had married granddaughters of Daniel Itzig, the daughters of his son-in-law, Dr. Joseph Fliess. According to the magistrate records of Koenigsberg, they had taken the oath in the presence of persons deputized by the magistrate in the synagogue and in the form required of Jews.

With their admittance to municipal citizenship, the first Jewish municial citizens were now free to join the guild of traders, even though at first there were still some small difficulties. This is all the more remarkable, as at the same time, two businessmen who had converted to Christianity were refused and only could enter after overcoming many hindrances.

Admittance to the Civil Service was not granted to the Itzig family, contrary to their expectations. Eduard Hitzig, who later became a senior judge in the criminal court system, could only become a law officer after he had been baptized.

A grandson of Daniel Itzig, Benjamin Jacob Barnheim--Barnheim was his name from 1811 on--used the naturalization certificate to become a citizen of Berlin on September 7, 1809. By then the time to refer to this exceptional privilege had passed.

In the meantime, weighty and grave political changes had occurred. Prussia had not been able to maintain its power under the totally altered constellation of affairs, under the assault of new political ideas, and under the weight of territorial expansion which had overtaxed its strength. The Prussian army was defeated by the superior military skill of Napoleon, and, in the treaty of Tilsit, the Prussians had to agree to unprecedented losses of territory and large sacrifices of prestige and money. From this defeat, as so often in the history of peoples, there came the will and the strength to rise again. The collapse of the state was followed by that period of reforms associated with the names of the Freiherr von Stein , the Count Hardenberg--the chancellor of the state--and those of their associates and helpers who agreed with them. As different as the principals in the reform movement were in temperament, in experience, and in the many details of their personal perceptions, as united were they in their goal to liberate the fettered strengths of the population of the territories that still belonged to Prussia so that the people would have a vital interest in the state and be willing to sacrifice for it as the bearers of its liberty. Enlightened and furthered self-interest was to become confluent with the higher interests of the state. Efforts at reform tied to the structure and concepts of the old state which previously had languished for lack of sufficient effort and force were now united with concepts, matured on foreign soil, that had led to the creation of successful new state institutions.

It was a natural consequence of a rethinking of national policy and of a plan which had liberation as its goal that the question of the treatment of the Jews could not be avoided, a question that was surrounded by so many controversies, inhibited by so many preconceptions and full of so many difficulties. The way out of the thicket of ordinances, out of the labyrinth of perceptions inflamed by the then current literature, required of the lawgiver a willingness to overcome his own prejudices in addition to an unyielding determination. At first, none of this was evident, but then it became clear even to the Freiherr von Schroetter, minister of the state of

East Prussia--and once also of Neuostpreussen--a man not well disposed towards the Jews, that the old order had to go, and that economic and social opportunities, which the state had denied the Jews, had to be offered to them. It remains an open question how it was that Schroetter came to such a fundamental reversal of his views, and it is even more a question if Schroetter's superior, Freiherr von Stein, would ever have wished to support so radical a change from established practice as did Scharnhorst and Wilhelm von Humboldt, who were the spokesmen for the emancipation of the Jews, or as Hardenberg, who eventually carried out the reform. It is the more remarkable that it was through the municipal statutes of November 19, 1808, which go back to Freiherr von Stein, that the first decisive step was taken to equalize the rights of non-Jewish and Jewish citizens. Paragraph 19 of the statutes provided that 'position, occupation, religion, and, in general, personal relationships, make no difference in the acquisition of municipal citizenship'. The Jewish citizens remained for the time being--until the enactment of the Emancipation edict of 1812--like other specified categories, e.g. the Mennonites, 'in regards to the procurement of real estate and the pursuit of occupations under the restrictions which are prescribed by the law of the land and the local constitution'.

With this the way was open to all the Jewish inhabitants of Prussia, and not only for a small privileged group, to become municipal citizens and to aspire to posts of civic honor. Ernst von Meier was of the opinion that the Jews in 1808 only achieved the right to vote and the eligibility to be candidates for elective offices by mistake because, in the haste in which these statutes were formulated, the Jews were not explicitly excluded due to an oversight. Contrary to this view is the declaration by the Minister of the Interior on March 14, 1809, that Jewish citizens 'unquestionably could be town councillors and members of municipal authorities'. The acquisition of citizenship was not only a right but a duty {footnote: quoting the Minister of the Interior, February 27, 1809}. In the view of the king, the municipal statutes represented 'the beginning for a settlement of the situation of the Jewish nation', and that the rights granted could only be welcomed by the Jews and for good reason.

The Elders of the Jews of Berlin submitted a list to the magistrate of those paterfamilias and independent members of the Jewish Community who, as owners of houses or through their business or occupation, were required to acquire citizenship. And so on April 6, 1809, during a week of Jewish Holy Days, the first Berlin Jews were bound by oath according to the new municipal statutes. They had to take their civic oath in the

synagogue in the Heidenreutergasse--which in 1714 had been consecrated in the presence of the king--'according to the observance of the usual ceremonies of their religion'. The form of this oath was solemn, medieval-like, embellished with religious allusions, in which the sacred nature of the oath was emphasized by an admonitory formulation devised by Moses Mendelssohn which, however much it improved upon the old formulation, could not but affront the sense of honor of those admonished.

Those who became citizens on April 6, 1809,--25 in number {trs. note: among whom were Ernst Benda's grandfather, Jacob Riess, and two uncles, David Jacob Riess and Moses Benda}--were followed on April 9 by another 80, among these the bankers and proprietors of houses Salomon and Simon Veit. Salomon was the first, and for a long time the only native-born Berlin Jew who entered the City Council--even as David Friedlaender then became City Councillor; Simon, his brother, was the first husband of Dorothea Mendelssohn-Schlegel {trs. note: she caused much comment by divorcing her husband and taking their four children to marry a Protestant clergymen and philosopher, and later, with her two surviving sons, becoming Roman Catholic, and they, in turn, becoming well-known Catholic religious painters. It was a long spiritual and social journey for the daughter of Moses Mendelssohn}. On April 10, another 40 members of the Jewish Community were admitted to municipal citizenship, on the following day, 50, and on April 12, another 45. On April13, there were 35 more, and on April 16, there were two stragglers. A month later, the senior Elder of the Jews of Berlin, David Hirsch, a retired person living on private means, informed the magistrate that an additional six persons were ready to acquire citizenship. These six, together with the scholar Michael Israel, two assessors, Kauffmann Emanuel and Koppel Liepmann, and the synagogue servant, Heimann Jacob, went to the synagogue for the usual swearing-in ceremony. A couple of days later, the "Croesus" of Berlin, the 'protected Jew and banker' Liepmann Meyer Wulff, took the oath at his residence in the Koenigstrasse. He was followed by two members of the Itzig family, the sisters, widows, and house owners Bella Salomon, later called Bella Bartholdy, and Sara Levy, the cultured patron of the arts. Due to long-term absences from Berlin, a few more Jews acquired municipal citizenship later: In 1810, there were none, in July, 1811, there were an additional 16, and in 1812, another 26.

From 1809 to 1812, the span of time between acquiring municipal citizenship and state citizenship, 330 Jews became citizens of Berlin. Thus, 10% of the Jewish population, which was then about 2% of the total population, had acquired the municipal citizenship of Berlin. That surely

was a high percentage. {trs. note: Ernst Benda's father was not among them. He waited until 1833 as he assumed, according Jacobson, that being a state citizen made municipal citizenship unnecessary.}

Those who became municipal citizens by 1812 are the core of the Jewish citizens of the city of Berlin. With these begin the entries into the Judenbuergerbuecher (JBB)

{Trs. note: There follows a detailed discussion of the factual data in the JBB, as well as a discussion of why separate books were kept for Jewish municipal citizens in Berlin. In the listing of citizens, sequential numbers are assigned according to the date of acquiring citizenship, and these numbers are shown in this Appendix after the name where information has been translated from Jacobson. Finally, there is a discussion of the particular responsibility of the Jewish Community to investigate and recommend those Jewish immigrants to Berlin to be made municipal citizens}

As regards those who were made Jewish citizens of Berlin up to and including 1812, the governing body of the Jewish Community hardly had cause or responsibility to carry on correspondence outside the boundaries of Berlin. Of these new Jewish citizens of Berlin, 184 had been born there, and many of the others had long been residents. Their occupations were not given in the JBB but they were generally indicated in the "General Street- and Habitation-Directory for the Capital Berlin' (with 25 illustrated site plans) of 1812, published by Louis Quien, and gathered by the diligent and self-confident inspector of buildings, Salomon Sachs. Naturally, the occupations gathered from this Directory hardly give a complete picture of the extent and diversity of vocational activity; however, it may be emphasized that the core of Jewish citizens of Berlin had, besides the various businessmen, bankers, and manufacturers, also one embroiderer in gold, a buttonmaker, a mechanic, a seal-maker, three physicians, and one dentist. The connection to artistic interests were established by dealers, one each, in antiques, paintings, books, and musical materials. It is clear that all these men had received some German education--even if to varying extent--as may be seen by their vigorous, cursive signatures under their oaths.

The range of occupations widened with the enactment of the Emancipation decree of March 11, 1812, the 'edict concerning the civic conditions of the Jews in the Prussian states'. This law in no way brought the full equality yearned for, and it left important problems for the future, but it did make Jews--who were residents in Prussian states and who had general privileges, naturalization certificates, letters of protection and

concessions--and their families into natives and citizens of Prussia. In general, they were to receive the same rights and liberties as Christians, they were allowed to settle in towns and the countryside, they were allowed to buy real estate of all types, and they came into the unlimited enjoyment of freedom to engage in all crafts and the full extent of trade. They were freed from all those taxes which had been collected only from them, and the bonds which had practically limited marriage were finally broken {footnote in Jacobson: with a dramatic decrease in illegitimate births}. To foreign Jews, permanent residence was only permitted after gaining citizenship. A fundamental requirement for obtaining citizenship was the acquisition of a permanent family name, a requirement that had been part of each reform proposal and which had already occurred in some jurisdictions, and lastly, the applications were only to be accepted positively after the applicants' subjection to military conscription. All this was soon to be reflected in the records of the JBB.

It was left to the Jews to choose their names as they wished, that is, free of the Napoleonic limitations and of the limitations imposed by the laws governing the giving of names derived from them. Only in Westpreussen did the authorities attempt somewhat to influence the selection of names and that through suggestions to break out of the uniformity of selected names in order to diversify and differentiate them. The Jews of Westpreussen willingly followed these suggestions. They would do this all the more easily as the government of Westpreussen thought it important that the new names have no derisory or unpleasant connotation. The Prussian Civil Service in this respect compared favorably with their colleagues in Austrian and Polish lands who forced on the humiliated Jewish population of their jurisdictions those degrading, disgraceful 'nicknames' that even after generations brought forth ridicule and helpless bitterness.

In the selection of names which was to be left to the creative imagination of the Jews--family names already in use had to be retained -- there were clearly two tendencies: to hold fast to tradition or, alternatively, to be ready to assimilate. The former created out of the inherited order of first names the family names, or they kept in their names their origins and the stations of their wanderings, their occupations, or their tribal membership--Cohn and Levy--or used Hebrew abbreviations--not always decipherable--as family names. The others sought through a transformation of their names, through the creation of new ones, or through acceptance of names that were common to acknowledge their willingness to assimilate to the customs of their

surroundings. The frequency of certain names throughout the kingdom and even beyond its borders of assumed, similar-sounding names had as a consequence that some of these names--certainly contrary to the original intention--were later considered typically Jewish.

These tendencies are noticeable also in the selection of given names. The former naturally retained the old Biblical names, modified according to Lutheran usage, or the common Jewish given names, while the others favored German first names that sounded similar to their previous ones or at least shared the same first letters. The Commissioner of Police in Berlin, Le Coq, found this offensive, but the Chief responsible for police matters within the Ministry of the Interior, von Schuckmann, saw this 'as a praiseworthy tendency to assimilate the general customs of the land and to reject every possible thing that has immediately accentuated externally the previous separateness and Jewishness'. Throughout the edition of the JBB, the name changes were entered from published lists printed as a result of the edict of March 11, 1812.

Barely had the Jews of Prussia reached the end of the period of a Jewry protected by the authorities when they found themselves placed in the War of Liberation, put to a special test. For centuries without military experience and crowded together in larger or smaller towns, excluded from agricultural occupations which further endurance and strength, they had the further prejudice against them that they were said to lack the essential of soldiering, courage and bravery. Some had to overcome their earlier sympathies for France as the bearer of the ideals of liberty--particularly in the treatment of Jewish problems,--and many may have had to settle for the religious practices which regulated their daily lives. But the test was passed. The Jewish volunteers of the War of Liberation, as was officially stated, fulfilled their duties as soldiers, as defenders of the fatherland. But those of them who believed that on the basis of military service they were entitled to employment in the Civil Service were disappointed in their expectations.

{Trns note: There follows a paragraph about military records in the JBB}

The reaction which occurs after wars, including the War of Liberation, and which was a palpable hit against the Jews appeared not least in the area of military service. During the war, Jews had been commissioned as officers - but not nearly as many as the exaggerating legends would have it - and they had also served in the Guards. Now they were excluded from service in all Guard regiments and barred from all promotions. That is the explanation for the JBB citing for young Jews service only in a detachment of the 20th Reserve infantry regiment.

Such special treatment is explicable in that the assumptions of a liberal and optimistic humanism had been diminished by the concept of a Christian state and by the heightened German nationalism following the sacrifices and victories of the war. Public sentiment supported this.

The Emancipation edict had opened the way for Jews to enter academic teaching and school and community organizations, but the final determination if they should be admitted to other government services and state offices was left for later determination (Para. 8 and 9). That had been a compromise with those ministers and advisers who could not accept so radical a departure from the usual ways. Now their opinion gained in strength, and the king decided that in a Christian state only those had a right to higher office--taken in the widest sense--who followed the religion of the state. The order of the Cabinet of August 18, 1822, repealed the pledge of the edict of 1812 and excluded those who remained Jews from an academic career. This led many to baptism.

There are many reasons which--if one disregards the conversions of earlier times--led Jews from the turn of the 18th into the 19th century on to convert to Christianity and which led them to raise their children in Christianity. Conviction in the truths of the Christian religion and its superiority over the Jewish religion, unwillingness to make sacrifices for a community from which one feels estranged, from which one wishes to escape because one wishes to avoid the contempt in which the community is held, the wish and--as it appeared--the necessity to conform in all things with the state which was constructed on the idea of Christianity and which had little room, and certainly no place in the sun, for nonconformists, and, finally, the desire for family ties free of conflict--all that loosened the ties of Judaism...

{We leave Jacobson in the middle of this paragraph of his Introduction on page 17 of 46 pages. A somewhat more passionate view of conversions is from Franz Oppenheimer, "Erlebtes, Erstrebtes, Erreichtes--Lebenserinnerungen" (completed before 1933), Joseph Melzer Verlag, Duesseldorf, 1964, pp. 38-40}

As I mentioned, my mother was descended through her mother from the respected Benda family that had resided in Berlin since the end of the 17th century. One of the Bendas has prepared a family tree that ascends to include my mother and her siblings. The progenitor, David Benda, was married to a daughter of the very well-known family Itzig; one of them was, according to my information, a master of the mint for a Prussian king; a descendant took on the spiritus asper and transformed himself into a German Hitzig, as the Hitzig Street in the West part of Berlin bears witness;

he was, if I am well informed, a significant architect. The couple had no less than 10 children who, in their turn, had, on the average, numerous descendants; it was still the time before the domestication of the stork! The descendants of the old David through the good offices of the daughters had, of course, the most diverse names. The bearers had the most varied professions; there are not only important businessmen, but numerous also are lawyers, doctors, professors, and evangelical clergymen in no small number, e.g. Kanitz, Taube, etc. A quick scrutiny shows that even then, when this family tree was prepared, that is more than half a century ago, by far the majority of the relatives no longer belonged to the Jewish religion. That was then no sign of weakness, lack of character, or vaulting ambition, but, as the family history of the Mendelssohns shows, nothing but the inevitable consequence of the situation obtaining at the time. The educated Israelite was considered to enjoy equal rights in society; capitalism with its psychology of competition did not yet dominate the mind; and there was not yet anticapitalism which directed its attack against the weakest place of the opposing class. Thus, the inner ghetto had been burst open just as had been the outer one; the strict rules of religion appeared more and more as the remnants of times past, particularly since at that time Christian religion, and especially the Protestant religion which is decisive in northern Germany, under the influence of 'Humanismus' {classical education} had mellowed, as it were, and its statement of belief was directed toward human nature and humanity and no longer colored by denominational doctrine. At that time, Schleiermacher was the teacher and the preacher of the educated, the man to whom even my father gave allegiance, and so it was no cowardly retreat before an unjust arbitrariness then, but an almost irresistible compulsion, that induced the conversion of Jews who grew up in German education and culture. The Old Testament was a Holy Book also for the Christians, and the religious temperament of that time was disposed mightily to be attracted by the eternal, never-to-be-lost content in early Christianity of human goodness and love. Today, and already for the generation to which I belong, the situation is and was completely different. Today, one would escape a pressure which the honorable would consider immoral; should one abandon a community while it is embattled, should one desert the barricades while shots are fired; that is even for such, for example, as I, myself, who am doctrinally completely neutral, an impossible, unreasonable demand. I could well understand the excellent, old Adolf Wagner, who honored me in his last years with a true friendship, when he as a convinced Christian again and again expressed the wish that I should cross over this last boundary which

separated me from his community, but he also understood that especially the upper classes have a duty to remain true to their community.

{For a perspective from 1988, the following interview with Claude Levi-Strauss (the French anthropologist, then 80 years old) may be of interest.

The interview is followed by Xerox copies of three documents. The first is the "concession" to make Alexander Abraham, the great-grandfather of Ernst Benda, an ordinary protected Jew from an extraordinary one. In word-for-word translation, this document (Title not decipherable) reads approximately as follows:

After His Royal Majesty in Prussia
Our most gracious Lord resolved have, the pre-
viously local extraordinary protected Jew Alexan-
der Abraham, to better advance his leather
business, the right of an ordinary protected-
Jew herewith to accord.
Thus be the named Alexander Abraham
for this purpose the ...? concession
herewith granted, and him by grace permitted
all other protected Jews permitted trade
henceforth to engage.
Accordingly the Electoral War and
Domains Cabinet, as well as the magistrate
of this residence, themselves most submissively
to obey, and the Impretanten {one who receives favor} when he
according to prescription of the General-Jews-
Rules behaves and executes, thereby ap-
propriately to protect have. Signed Berlin the 8th
of July 1766.

[The ink blot and Rex constitute the signature of Frederick the Great.]

The second document is a copy of the municipal citizenship of April 6, 1809, taken from Jacobson, cited above, Fig.3., and showing the signatures of Jacob Riess and his son. I could not find the signature of Alexander Moses David (later Moses Benda), but not all of the 25 signatures are included in the published photocopy.

The third document is a copy of the Berlin municipal citizenship of Ernst Benda's father who throughout this typescript is called Liepmann Alexander Benda. By 1833, he styled himself either Leffmann or Louis. A similar document for Hartwig Hirschfeld is published in Jacobson, cited above, Fig. 7, but not included here.}

Lévi-Strauss, C. and Eribon, D. (1991) Conversations with Claude Lévi-Strauss (tr. Paula Wissing)
Univ. Chicago Press, Chicago viii, 184 pp
pp. 155–157

*

D.E. A minute ago we spoke of racism. Have you yourself suffered, as a Jew, during your youth or later in your career?

C.L.-S. It would be indecent of me to consider the abominable and overwhelming catastrophe that struck the fraction of humanity of which I'm a part, because I had the luck to escape it. In comparison, the effects I felt were modest: the plundering of my family's possessions, my father's life cut short by the trials of the Occupation . . . however it is clear that it has substantially influenced my fate.

When I was a child, Jewish children were sometimes insulted at the communal school (as it was called then) and at the lycée.

D.E. Have you experienced situations similar to those described by François Jacob in his memoirs? [4]

C.L.-S. Yes, and since I am older than he, I've probably had a few more of them.

D.E. And later on?

C.L.-S. Anti-Semitism may have played a part in one or other career difficulty, but it had a minor role, considering the reservations inspired by my ideas or my person.

D.E. You have always been a partisan of "assimilation" and you have never asserted a Jewish "identity." But you know Métraux's phrase about you, from his journal, "He's the very picture of a Jewish intellectual."

C.L.-S. That doesn't bother me. We're not pure mind, and it seems natural for me, especially as an anthropologist, to size someone up by putting him in his context.

D.E. The phrase doesn't bother you, but what does it mean to you?

C.L.-S. First it would be necessary to know what Métraux meant by it. Our conversations never touched on the subject. I admit that certain mental attitudes are perhaps more common among Jews than elsewhere.

D.E. For example?

C.L.-S. Attitudes that come from the profound feeling of belonging to a national community, all the while knowing that in the midst of this community there are people—fewer and fewer of them, I admit—who reject you. One keeps one's sensitivity attuned, accompanied by the irrational feeling that in all circumstances one has to do a bit more than other people to disarm potential critics. It doesn't upset me if this effort, explicable as it is, gives offense. Gobineau, who wasn't an anti-Semite, described the Jewish mind as that of a seeker by nature, taking pleasure in acquiring "what is science as well as what is gold" from the riches of this world. I imagine Métraux was referring to the first kind of appetite.

D.E. At any rate, you have never asserted or affirmed your Judaism.

C.L.-S. Even for my parents, Judaism was only a memory. I hesitated for a long time before going to Israel, because reestablishing physical contact with one's roots is an awesome experience.

D.E. When did you go?

C.L.-S. In 1984–85. The Israel Musem had invited me to chair an international symposium on art as a means of communication in nonliterate societies.

D.E. And what was your reaction?

C.L.-S. I know myself to be Jewish, and the ancientness of the blood, as they used to say, suits me. There more than ever the gap—two thousand years, more or less—between the departure from Palestine and the beginning of the eighteenth century, when I find my ancestors settled in Alsace, frustrated me. What happened in between? The historical sequence, the different stages of this wandering aren't there, and I would need them to be able to perceive the reality of the bond with a far distant past. It is reduced to abstract knowledge. All that is to say that there was no time when I was in Israel that I had the impression of actually touching my roots. Israel has interested me enormously, less because I find it to be a nation of distant cousins (I don't have that kind of family feeling), than as the bridgehead held by the West in the East, the Ninth Crusade, as it were.

4. François Jacob, *Le Statue intérieure* (Paris: Odile Jacob, 1987).

Bürger-Brief.

Wir Präsident, Bürgermeistere, und Rath dieser Königlichen Preußischen Haupt- und Residenz-Stadt Berlin, erklären hiermit, daß Wir den

auf sein geziemendes Ansuchen, und nach befundener Qualification, zum Bürger angenommen, Ihn auch dadurch derer, einem hiesigen Bürger zustehenden Rechte und Wohlthaten, jedoch mit Beibehaltung seiner sonstigen Staatsbürgerlichen Verhältnisse, fähig und theilhaftig machen wollen. Da nun derselbe, zur Versicherung seiner Treue und seines Gehorsams, nachgesetzten Eid geleistet hat:

Ich

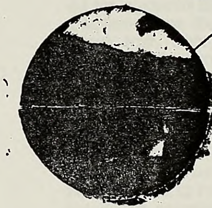
gelobe und schwöre Seiner Königlichen Majestät von Preussen, meinem allergnädigsten Könige und Herrn, auch Einem Hoch-Edeln Magistrat hiesiger Königl. Haupt- und Residenz-Stadt, jederzeit getreu und gehorsam zu seyn, Dero Nutzen und Bestes nach meinem Vermögen zu befördern, und dagegen Schaden und Nachtheil abzuwenden; so oft ich auch von Seiner Königl. Majestät und Einem Hoch-Edeln Magistrat gefordert werde, will ich gehorsam erscheinen, und alles dasjenige, was mir aufgetragen wird, mit getreuem Fleiß ausführen; und insonderheit den Bestimmungen der allgemeinen Städte-Ordnung vom 19ten November 1808, mich unweigerlich unterwerfen, und solche nach meinen Kräften aufrecht erhalten; imgleichen will ich alle und jede öffentliche und Stadt-Abgaben, Lasten und Dienste, sie haben Namen wie sie wollen, willig entrichten und übernehmen; und mich in allen Dingen, wie einem getreuen Bürger eignet und gebühret, bezeigen und verhalten; So wahr mir ——: der wahrhafte GOtt helfe.

So ist ihm dieser Bürger-Brief darüber ausgefertiget und ertheilet worden. Urkundlich unter unserm Stadt-Insiegel. So geschehen, Berlin, den

Abb. 3. *Bürgereid* der ersten in den J. B. B. Verzeichneten vom 6. 4. 1809 (Zuerst veröffentlicht im Year Book I, London 1956, S. 321, des Leo Baeck Institute of Jews from Germany).

Nachdem Seine Königliche Majestät in Preußen,
Unser allergnädigster Herr resolviret haben, dem vor-
herigen hiesigen extraordinairen Schutz-Juden Alexan-
der Abraham, zu äußerer Verbesserung seines Unter-
haltes, das Recht eines ordinairen Schutz-
Juden allhier zu [illegible]
Als wird [illegible] Abraham
zu solchem [illegible] Concession
hiermit ertheilet, [illegible] in Gnaden gestattet,
allen andern Schutz-Juden erlaubten Handel
hinführo zu treiben.
Wonach die Churmärkische Krieges und
Domainen-Cammer so wohl, als der Magistrat
hiesiger Residentzien, sich allerunterthänigst
zu achten, und den Impetranten wann er sich
nach Vorschrift des General-Juden-

Reglements gehörig [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. Signatum Berlin den 2ten
Julii 1766.



Concession

für den bisherigen extraordinairen
Schutz-Juden Alexander Abraham
als ordinarius [illegible].

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Bürger-Brief.

Wir Ober-Bürgermeister, Bürgermeister und Rath dieser Königlichen Preußischen Haupt- und Residenzstadt Berlin; erklären hiermit, daß Wir den Kaufmann Herrn auch Louis genannt Leffmann Alexander Benda auf sein geziemendes Ansuchen, und nach beigebrachter Qualification, zum Bürger angenommen, Ihn auch dadurch derer, einem hiesigen Bürger zustehenden, Rechte und Wohlthaten theilhaftig machen wollen. Da nun derselbe, zur Versicherung seiner Treue und seines Gehorsams, nachstehenden Eid geleistet hat:

Ich auch Louis genannt Leffmann Alexander Benda gelobe und schwöre bey יהוה dem Gott Israels, daß ich, nachdem ich von Einem Hoch-Edeln Magistrat zum Bürger angenommen worden, Seiner Königl. Majestät von Preußen, meinem allergnädigsten Könige und Herrn, getreu und unterthänig, auch Einem Hoch-Edeln Magistrat dieser Stadt gehorsam und gewärtig seyn will. Ferner schwöre ich, das Beste dieser Stadt und Bürgerschaft nach meinem Vermögen zu befördern, Schaden und Nachtheil abzuwenden, und alle mir als Bürger obliegende Pflichten gewissenhaft zu erfüllen; insonderheit aber den Bestimmungen der allgemeinen Städte-Ordnung vom 19ten November 1808, mich unweigerlich zu unterwerfen, und solche nach

nach meinen Kräften aufrecht zu erhalten; imgleichen will ich alle öffentliche und Stadtabgaben, Lasten und Dienste, sie haben Namen wie sie wollen, willig abtragen und übernehmen; überhaupt aber mich in allen Verhältnissen so zeigen, wie es einem getreuen Bürger eignet und gebühret. Wenn ich falsch schwöre, so müssen mich alle die Strafen treffen, welche mir in der geschehenen Vermahnung angedeutet worden sind. Amen.

So ist ihm dieser Bürgerbrief darüber ausgefertiget und ertheilet worden. Urkundlich unter unserm Stadt-Insiegel; So geschehen, Berlin den 17. Mai 1833.

Bürgermeister

Stadt Secret.

Page 3 When I asked my grandfather Theodor, I was 9 or 10 years old, where the name Benda came from, he indicated, as I remember it, that he did not know for certain but that in one opinion the name came from the Hebrew, benDavid, son of David, and that the less religious took the Benda, and the more religious, the David part. Unfortunately, I have never discovered the Davids, and it may have been a jest by a witty man exhausted by too many questions. Jacobson lists only one David born in Berlin, no obvious connection, and no Bendavid born in Berlin. Were the name to have been formed as my grandfather mentioned, it is unlikely that Ernst Benda's grandfather, David, would have called himself Benda. In this connection it should be noted that the business of Ernst B.'s father and uncles was called "Brothers Benda', thus apparently excluding the grandfather, and that Moses Benda registered the name Benda as a permanent name in 1812 in the official list of selected names, the previous name of the family in the records of the Jewish Community having been Alexander.

Jacobson lists Ernst B.'s grandfather as David Alexander Abraham, born in Berlin, January 15, 1746, settled in Berlin, 1770, trader in leather, died in Berlin, October 9, 1804. Whether there were siblings is not shown. The family tree lists his wife as Henrietta Itzig, but how or whether she is related to the Daniel Itzig family I do not know.

The number in parenthesis following the name is the number in the JBB assigned by Jacobson.

Riess, Jacob, (#13) owner, Spand. Str. 42, born Berlin, March 12, 1730, Hebrew name Koppel, son of Model Riess, first, attendant on invalids, later, after considerable inheritance, an ordinary protected Jew, died in Berlin, June 8, 1809.

Father: Marcus David Riess, born in Berlin, died in Berlin, November 11, 1748.

{How many generations were there between Jacob Riess and the Abraham Ries mentioned in the Edict of May 21, 1671, on the pages copied from Gay? Jacobson lists under another Riess (#198), the relationship to Jacob Riess not indicated, the following four generations, but he does not mention Abraham Ries who would presumably have been the father of

Koppel Model Riess = Jacob Marcus Riess, belonged in 1671 to the first Jews accepted in Brandenburg after the Jews were driven from Vienna, died in Berlin, April 5, 1709. His son

David Koppel Riess, born in Vienna about 1662, received already in 1695 the privilege to settle all his children in Berlin, had his own synagogue over which he had a long battle with the influential Court-Jewess, Esther

Gay, Ruth. (1992). The Jews of Germany. Yale Univ. Press New Haven, CT xiii, 297,

Berlin: A Community of Court Jews

In the seventeenth century, the position of German Jews was simple. They were treated as unequal "partners" in a transaction in which a ruler provided them with a place to live and work, and the Jews in return paid protection money—*Schutzgeld*—for the privilege of existence. In those years, both Jews and their rulers saw themselves engaged in an exchange of services, unclouded by philosophic considerations. Ideas about toleration, human rights, and mutual moral obligations had not yet come to confuse a clearly defined, if one-sided, business relationship.

The genesis of the last Jewish community in Berlin is a classic example of how the system worked. Although Jews had lived in Berlin in the early Middle Ages, the modern community was founded in 1671, benefiting from the misfortune of the Jews in Vienna. There in February 1670 some 3,000 Jews, including a group that had fled from deadly pogroms in Poland in 1648, had been notified by an order of Emperor Leopold that they must leave by the following Easter. Desperate for a place of refuge, they appealed to the representative of Brandenburg-Prussia for permission to settle in the lands of Frederick William, the Great Elector. "The very earth on which we stand, indeed the entire world, is closed against us," they wrote in their plea. They were, they said, being "treated cruelly, against all natural law."

Enhancing this appeal to natural law was the reality that Frederick William was facing a land depleted by the Thirty Years' War. He had come to the throne in 1640, eight years before the end of that war, but even after a quarter-century of his rule, his country remained impoverished and trade was at a standstill. Berlin's population had been reduced by half and in 1648 counted a mere 6,000 or 7,000 inhabitants. The Great Elector was determined to build his capital into a thriving center of commerce and beauty, laying out new streets, planting trees, constructing a fortified city wall, and rebuilding the palace, which had fallen into ruin. In the interest of promoting trade, he embarked on an extensive and exceedingly successful program of canal construction.

Hence the Viennese Jews' appeal was welcome to him: a recovering city needs people with technical skills. He cautiously told his envoy in Vienna that he was not unwilling to admit forty or fifty well-to-do Jewish families who would bring their capital with them and invest it in enterprises in Berlin. Around Easter 1671, twelve of the families took advantage of the Great Elector's offer and dispersed to three of his cities: Berlin, Frankfurt an der Oder, and Zullichau. The three families that went to Berlin were headed by Hirschel Lazarus, Benedikt Veit, and Abraham Ries.

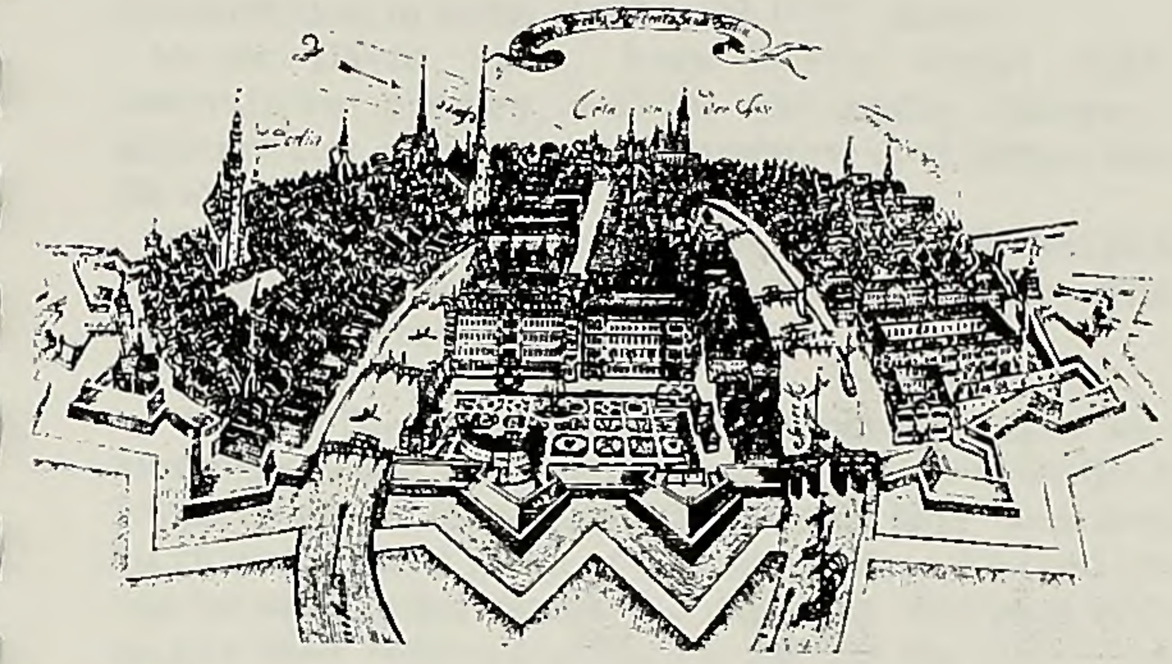
The edict of May 21, 1671, which spelled out the conditions for admitting these first Jewish families, also specified how they were to live and make their living. The first restriction was one of time: the privilege was to run for only twenty years. But they could settle where they liked, engage in trade without restrictions, and keep a slaughterer as well as a schoolteacher. Heavy taxes were laid upon them in return for these privileges, and in order to curb the growth of the Jewish population in Prussia, each family was allowed to settle only one child in the community.

In an age of envenomed, often violent religious intolerance, Frederick William showed himself a ruler of remarkable liberality. In addition to Jews, he admitted Protestants from the Rhineland, Huguenots from France, and an assortment of religious dissidents, such as Arians and Mennonites. Like his Jews, these sects settled in segregated areas, each speaking its own language and founding its own schools and places of worship. These groups, too, were valued for the skills and trades they brought with them, the Huguenots especially for their expertise in the manufacture of textiles.

With the same energy with which he extended Prussia's boundaries from the Rhine in the west to the Baltic Sea, the Great Elector pursued his building and collecting passions at home, providing a formidable example for his son and successor, Frederick III, who in January 1701 crowned himself Frederick I, king in Prussia. The Great Elector, an avid accumulator of paintings and gems, was not alone among rulers in his preoccupation with splendor. His model was Louis XIV of France, the Sun King, whose lavish expenditures on palaces, furniture, jewels, and works of art were emulated by every monarch and princeling whether he could afford it or not. In those days the court jeweler was a busy man, and in Berlin he was likely to be a Jew.

To pages 3 and 4

Gay, R. (cited above)



Seventeenth-century Berlin, the capital of Prussia, made up of Berlin, Cölln an der Spree, and Friedrichswerder.



No. I. II.

Das III. Capitel.

Von

Juden = Sachen.

No. I. Edict wegen der Pohlnischen Juden Arretirung auff denen Jahrmärckten rc. Vom 20. August. 1650.

Fr. Wilhelm.

(L.S.)

No. II. Edict wegen auffgenommenen 50. Familien Schutz-Juden, jedoch daß sie keine Synagogen halten. Vom 21. May 1671.

V. Th. V. Abtheil.

The Edict of May 21, 1671, permitting the settlement of fifty families of protected Jews in Berlin.

Schulhoff, died in Berlin, October 29, 1727. His son

Meyer David Riess, born Berlin about 1688, received a Generalschutzprivileg in 1724, was money changer, house owner, administrator of the Jewish Community, died Berlin, February 27, 1751. His son

David Meyer Riess, born in Berlin, July 16, 1729, died in Berlin, February 23, 1813. He is contemporaneous with Jacob Riess. The answer would appear to be three generations.}

Page 4: The manuscript does not indicate clearly whether Siegmund Alexander Benda was baptized. Jacobson does not list him among the Jewish municipal citizens, which he would have been even if he received his citizenship as a result of military service. It would seem likely to me that he was another category, a dissident. Everyone in Germany had to declare their religious affiliation because the state - since the days of Luther - was indirectly the employer of the priests, pastors, rabbis, etc. If one did not wish to be affiliated with a particular religion, one could resign from its legal entity (e. g., the Jewish Community) and the 'religious' taxes would be collected from the dissident as a dissident.

He was baptized in 1817. Jacobson, J. Jüdische Trauungen in Berlin 1759-1813

Page 6: (#21) Alexander Moses David, Spandauer Str. 37, born Berlin, June 20, 1772, after 1812, Moses David Alexander Benda (List of of chosen names of the Kurmark 137) businessman, member of the Corporation of Businessmen, factory Gebrueder{Brothers} Benda, N. Promenade 8, cofounder of the Asylum for the Aged Poor of the Jewish Community, died in Berlin, March 9, 1843.

Jacobson writes (p. 46): 'It is necessary to explain why reference has been made so often to the foundation of the 'Altersversorgungsanstalt' {Asylum for the Aged Poor} of the Jewish Community of Berlin. This happened because, with the foundation of this social institution whose acts were a blessing, a conflict of long duration was finally resolved among--as happens so often--the Totenzunft {burial guild} representing the strictest orthodoxy, the burial society, and the administration of the Jewish Community. This conflict had erupted in view of the necessity to close the old Jewish cemetery in the Grossen Hamburger Strasse and to establish a new one in the Schoenhauser Allee.

In these two cemeteries, the overwhelming majority of those listed in the JBB found their final rest.'

Hirschfeld, Hartwig (# 1175) - merchant's clerk - businessman, Koenigstr.

Montaigne's Travel Journal [tr. Donald M. Frame] North Point Press, San Francisco, 1983. pp 80-82

(January 30, 1581; written by Montaigne's Secretary)

On the 30th he went to see the most ancient religious ceremony there is among men, and watched it very attentively and with great profit: that is, the circumcision of the Jews.

He had already seen their synagogue at another time, one Saturday morning, and their prayers, in which they sing without order, as in the Calvinist churches, certain lessons from the Bible in Hebrew, that are suited to the occasion. They sing the same songs, but with extreme discord, because they do not keep time and because of the confusion of so many voices of every sort of age; for the children, even the very youngest, take part, and all without exception understand Hebrew. They pay no more attention to their prayers than we do to ours, talking of other affairs in the midst of them and not bringing much reverence to their mysteries. They wash their hands on coming in, and in that place it is an execrable thing to doff one's hat; but they bow the head and knees where their devotions ordain it. They wear over their shoulders or on their head a sort of cloth with fringes attached: the whole thing would be too long to describe. After dinner their doctors each in turn give a lesson on the Bible passage for that day, doing it in Italian. After the lesson some other doctor present selects some one of the hearers, and sometimes two or three in succession, to argue with the reader about what he has said. The one we heard seemed to him to argue with great eloquence and wit.

But as for the circumcision, it is done in private houses, in the most convenient and lightest room in the boy's house. Where he was, because the house was inconvenient, the ceremony was performed at the entrance door. They give the boys a godfather and a godmother, as we do; the father names the child. They circumcise them on the eighth day from their birth. The godfather sits down on a table and puts a pillow on his lap; the godmother brings him the infant there and then goes away. The child is wrapped in our style; the godfather unwraps him below, and then those present and the man who is to do the operation all begin to sing, and accompany with songs all this action, which lasts a short quarter of an hour. The minister may be other than a rabbi, and whatever he may be among them, everyone wishes to be called to this office, for they hold that it is a great blessing to be employed at it often: indeed, they pay to be invited to do it, offering, one a garment, another some other commodity for the child; and they hold that he who has circumcised up to a certain number, which they know, when he is dead has this privilege, that the parts of his mouth are never eaten by worms.

On the table where this godfather is seated there is also a great preparation of all the instruments necessary for this operation. Besides that, a man holds in his hands a phial full of wine and a glass. There is also a brazier on the ground, at which brazier this minister first warms his hands, and then, finding this child all stripped, as the godfather holds him on his lap with his head toward him, he takes his member and with one hand pulls back toward himself the skin that is over it, with the other pushing the glans and the member within. To the end of this skin which he holds toward the said glans he applies a silver instrument which stops the said skin there and keeps the cutting edge from injuring the glans and the flesh. After that, with a knife he cuts off this skin, which they immediately bury in some earth which is there in a basin among the other preparations for this mystery. After that the minister with his bare nails plucks up also some other particle of skin which is on this glans and tears it off by force and pushes the skin back beyond the glans.

It seems there is much effort and pain in this; however, they find no danger in it, and the wound is always cured in four or five days. The boy's outcry is like that of ours when they are baptized. As soon as this glans is thus uncovered, they hastily offer some wine to the minister, who puts a little in his mouth and then goes and sucks the glans of this child, all bloody, and spits out the blood he has drawn from it, and immediately takes as much wine again, up to three times. This done, they offer him, in a little paper cup, some red powder which they say is dragon's blood,* with which he salts and covers the whole wound; and then he very tidily wraps this boy's member with cloths cut specially for this. That done, they give him a glass full of wine, which wine they say he blesses by some prayers that he says. He takes a swallow of it, and then dipping his finger in it he three times takes a drop of it with his finger to the boy's mouth to be sucked; and afterward they send this glass, in the same state, to the mother and the women, who are in some other part of the house, to drink what wine is left. Besides that, another person takes a silver instrument, round as a tennis ball, held by a long handle (which instrument is pierced with little holes, like our cassolettes), and carries it to the nose, first of the minister, and then of the child, and then of the godfather: they suppose that these are odors to confirm and enlighten minds for devotion. He meanwhile still has his mouth all bloody.

* A red resin used as an astringent.

I came across this passage immediately after struggling with page 6 so I included it.

45, born in Berlin, May 21, 1799, took over the business of his recently deceased father, gave 2 Rtl. to the poor, married November 6, 1820, Chaile (Karoline) daughter of Alexander Benda (21-20), and after her death, Henriette, daughter of Itzig Samuel in Friesack {Brandenburg} (List of chosen names of the Kurmark 2049), was proprietor of a business for the import of Russian products, Firma S. Hirschfeld, achieved considerable prosperity and practiced large-scale philanthropy, died Berlin, February 2, 1871. {He was my great-great-grandfather}

Father: Hirsch, Samuel (#174) Bischofstr. 17, born in Berlin, September 15, 1769,businessman, after 1812, Samuel Hirschfeld (list of chosen names of the Kurmark 635), in 1814 entered the guild of cloth and silk dealers, then member of the Corporation for Businessmen. Died in Berlin December 3, 1829.

Grandfather: Hirsch, Meyer David, born in Berlin, 1742, Torsteher { lit. a man who stands at the gate}, died in Berlin, April 1, 1785.

Hirschfeld, David (son of Hartwig Hirschfeld, footnote in Jacobson to # 1175) born January 7, 1829, son from his first marriage, was able to retire early and dedicated his free time and energies to community activity. He was the accountant of the Asylum for the Aged Poor of the Jewish Community and treasurer of the Asylum of the Homeless. As such he was not spared anti-Semitic smears, as is evident from his private papers in the possession of his granddaughter Leonie Steer, London. He also published a volume of poetry 'Three Wreaths'. David Hirschfeld married September 17, 1855, the daughter of the businessman Ephraim Thorsch from Prague (26-25).

Page 7: Benda, Meyer (# 1161), commercial clerk - businessman, A. Kommandantenstr. 8, born in Berlin, January 8, 1802, named according to the qualifying certificate of the eldest of Corporation of Businessmen of April 9, 1829, Meyer Martin Benda, volunteer in the the 20th Infantry Reserve Regiment, 3 Rtl. for the poor, married December 11, 1836 Louise, daughter of the late businessman Moritz Benzihn (#302), (34-20), died before 1850. (footnote: his widow married on June 24, 1850, the businessman Benjamin Goldstuecker (# 3045).

Page 8: Benda, Sossmann (# 1162), commercial clerk - businessman, A. Kommandantenstr. 8, born in Berlin, January 15, 1799, volunteer in the 20th Infantry Reserve Regiment, according to the certificate of Lieutenant-Colonel von Roebel suggested for officer July 1, 1819, 3 Rtl. for the poor,

with his brother took over the business Handlung Gebr. Benda, on December 10, 1833 converted to Christianity, received Berlin municipal citizenship on December 12, 1833 according to Christian rites with the given names Siegfried Alexander, was owner of a house, died after 1848.

Page 9: Alexander, Daniel, (# 188) Gr. Juedenhof 10, born in Berlin April 22, 1786, businessman, after 1812 Daniel Alexander Benda, member of the Corporation of the Stock Exchange, later, Corporation of Businessmen, died in Berlin after 1848.

Page 10: March 17, 1848, was the day before the beginning of the Revolution of 1848.

Page 12: Coutier (French) one who weaves with two threads.

The last five lines of this page on the typescript presumably read:
"oft ganz ueberschwaenglich. Ich lernte ihn sehr genau kennen, denn ich hatte ihn nicht nur als Kind schon viel vor Augen, sondern verlor ihn auch aus denselben spaeter nur selten, besonders da ich als junger Mann in seinem Comptoir mehrere Jahre lang fungierte und dann spaeter an der Boerse viel"

Page 19: The husband of V. *Sarah*:
Meyer, Meyer Moses (# 219), Stralauer Str. 46, born Potsdam, March 12, 1773, in Berlin since about 1786, 'Agent beim Handelsdepartment', member of the corporation of stockbrokers, died June 24, 1825.

Page 21: The husband of VI. *Caroline*:
Bahn, Sigismund Adolph (#339), businessman, Gertraudtenstr. 26, born in Berlin, April 15, 1778, before 1812, Salomon Bahn (List of chosen names of the Kurmark 236). After the death of his first wife, Caroline nee Alexander, on August 11, 1820, he married on April 12, 1823, Piene Meyer (45-22), daughter of Meyer Moses Meyer (#219), was dealer in men's furnishings and fire insurance agent, member of the corporation of businessmen, died after 1848.

Page 26: Naturalia non sunt turpia is a series of puns. Naturalien (German, f/pl) which signifies natural products, has been backformed to a Latin-like noun of singular form, and with a plural verb and a singular adjective, may mean natural products are not nasty. Naturalia in late Latin

Masur, G. (1970) Imperial Berlin. Dorset press, N.Y. 353 pp.

To pages 13 and 14.

These repressive measures, however, served to increase the mounting chorus of dissent. "Young Germany" demanded to be heard. The opposition included poets, philosophers, and thinkers: Heinrich Heine, Ludwig Börne, Georg Herwegh, and the left-wing Hegelians, Arnold Ruge, the brothers Bauer, Karl Marx, and Friedrich Engels. In 1826 Börne had written, "We think well, and speak badly; we talk much, and act little; we do something, and accomplish nothing." Many of these irreconciled young men had been driven into exile by the constant pressure from the police, the censorship, and the general feeling of frustration. They lived in France, in England, in Switzerland. But their writings found their way into Germany, and they encountered an avid reading public in Berlin.

At the time, Berlin had an institution which catered to the as yet unorganized political factions in the capital. This was the Konditorei, a combination of coffee house and sweet shop that had been introduced by a few enterprising Swiss: Josty, Spargnapani, Stehely, and others. Some were frequented by the bureaucracy, some by the officers of the guards, and some by the enemies of the regime, who read the *Rheinische Zeitung* for which Karl Marx was writing.[28] Besides the privilege of reading German and foreign newspapers, the visitor to these establishments could indulge in smoking his pipe or cigar, a pleasure which, by royal order, was denied him on the streets. But the coffee houses were only an ersatz, a poor echo chamber, for a real public opinion. This was afforded the Berliners on March 18, 1848.

We will not enter the debate as to whether the events of 1848 constituted a true revolution or only a revolt, nor will we discuss Mr. Trevelyan's aphorism that 1848 was the turning point at which history failed to turn. For Germany, for Prussia, and for Berlin, the consequences of the March uprising were deep and far reaching.

The revolution reopened the question of German hegemony which had been in abeyance since the Congress of Vienna. The codominion of Austria and Prussia in German affairs was dissolved; the Austrian empire, deeply engulfed in revolutionary upheavals, was unable to prevent the attempts by the German people to secure freedom and unity in a national state. Thus there appeared for a short time a new German center, Frankfurt am Main, where the first German parliament gathered to create national unity in free deliberation and self-determination.

In Berlin, the revolution produced the first violent clash between the authorities and the people. The king and the heir apparent, his brother, the Prince of Prussia, had hoped to stem the tide with halfway measures.

But the promises of participation in a German reform program—constitutionalism in Prussia, and a change of the cabinet—failed to convince the people, and on March 18, fighting broke out on the streets of Berlin.[29] Barricades were set up, defended by men from the middle class, students, craftsmen, and workers, who closed ranks against the common enemy, the state and its army. It is difficult to decide who scored a success in the actual fighting; partisanship and hindsight color the reports. But it is certain that Frederick William IV lost his nerve, and confessed: "We all lay flat on our bellies." When a proclamation, "To my dear Berliners," fell on deaf ears, he gave orders to withdraw the army from the capital. Nor did this complete his humiliation; the victims of the fighting were carried into the inner courtyard of the royal castle, and the king was obliged to pay homage to them. An amnesty for all political crimes was declared on March 21, and the king rode through the streets of Berlin displaying the new national colors, black, red, and gold, and solemnly promised: "Henceforth Prussia will merge with Germany."

Without doubt, the promise was given under duress, and if the king intended to honor his word, it would have to be in his own fashion. For at least six months, the revolutionary crescent rose, and a citizens' guard was formed to secure the initial gains of the uprising. On March 22, those who had died on the barricades were accorded an impressive burial, the funeral cortege being led by Alexander von Humboldt and the professors of the university. The majority of the victims came from the middle and working classes. Rudolf Virchow, later one of Berlin's most famous physicians, wrote to his brother: "It was essentially the workers who decided the revolution . . . this revolution is not simply political, but fundamentally social."[30] Virchow was quite correct in his assessment, yet the combination of political and social revolution was precisely the crux of the matter, and ultimately brought about

Masur, G. (1970) Imperial Berlin. Dorset Press, N.Y. 353 pp.

the failure of the revolution, since the political problems in themselves were of such magnitude that they would have demanded a mature and hardy generation to solve them. The generation of 1848 did not meet the test.

The German revolution of 1848 was faced at once with the task of introducing a measure of freedom to those states which were still deprived of constitutional guarantees, especially Prussia. In the second place, they were confronted by a thorny question: what form should the political unity of Germany assume, that of federation (*Bundesstaat*) or confederation (*Staatenbund*)? Woven inextricably into this issue was the third and most difficult question: which parts should be included, and which excluded, from the new Germany? The last problem especially affected the Austrian empire, composed as it was of large numbers of Magyars, Czechs, Slovaks, Croatians, and Italians, but ruled by a German-speaking minority. Thus the revolution split on a question for which there was no solution: a great Germany versus a little Germany.

In May of 1848, Prussia had acquired its own national assembly elected on a democratic basis. The deliberations of the assembly in Berlin were stormy, and they evidenced a shift toward the radical left. The situation was further complicated by the rapidly growing unemployment in the capital. Commerce suffered heavily from the political uncertainty, bankruptcy petitions rose in number, and the state was forced to intervene with an emergency program for public works. The fear of a socialist uprising seemed to be supported when a mob invaded the arsenal on June 14 and seized the weapons. In August the first general German Workers' Congress met in Berlin.[31]

There was, however, more smoke than fire in these manifestations of the working class, and, if anything, their riotous demands hastened the doom of the revolution. The bourgeoisie became frightened by the "spectre of communism" that, according to Marx and Engels, was haunting Europe. The revolutionary front that had overpowered the old authorities in March of 1848 fell apart and facilitated the counterrevolution.[32]

In truth, the forces of the old order, the landed aristocracy, the army, and the bureaucracy, had been stunned rather than defeated by the revolution. They were quick to perceive the split in the revolutionary movement and to turn it to their advantage. The Junker class organized its own newspaper, *Die Neue Preussische Kreuz-Zeitung*, taking the Iron Cross as its emblem, and as its motto, "Forward with God and King and Fatherland." The Junkers also formed their own association for the protection of property and played the depressed class of artisans and craftsmen against the wealthy bankers, entrepreneurs, and merchants. But their most powerful weapon was the formation of the camarilla, a shadow government behind and above the constitutional government dominated by Leopold and Ludwig von Gerlach. The camarilla advised the neurotic king to break with the Prussian Assembly and to adjourn it to Brandenburg. In November 1848, Berlin was put under marshal law, and once more the army was given the reins. A new government under the leadership of Count Brandenburg, the uncle of the king, was set up and granted a constitution on December 5. Prussia had become a constitutional monarchy, not by the will of the people, but by royal concession. Again, the principle of monarchic sovereignty asserted itself. The leader of the Prussian conservatives, Stahl, put forth the slogan: "Authority not majority."

The failure of the revolution was accepted by the people of Berlin, if not with indifference, at least with resignation. The middle class heaved a sigh of relief that the danger of "communism" had been averted. After all, to remain calm was the first duty of a citizen. Men like Bakunin felt nothing but scorn for the philistine acquiescence of the Berlin populace, and he quoted the inscription accompanying the display of the Prussian eagle above a tailor's shop:

> Under your wings
> Quietly I can do my ironing.[33]

refers to naughty bits.

Page 27: VIII-2-b. Antonie: Her son, Franz Oppenheimer, in his autobiography, cited above, describes the life of his grandmother and mother. He also mentions that his uncle, who became properous as a businessman, was embittered throughout his life by his "loss of class" for not having been able to study at the university because of his family's straitened circumstances. F. O. himself was a renowned sociologist and political economist, one of the founders of the Kibbutz movement, and his student, Chancellor Ludwig Erhard, has been credited with the "German miracle" after World War II.

Page 32: Margret Rudolf (1858-1920) was married to Artur Krupp (1856-1938). He owned the Berndorfer Metallwarenfabrik. *see* Manchester, W, (1968) The Arms of Krupp 1587-1968. Little, Brown, & Co., Boston.

Buchholtz was the treasurer of the royal household under Frederick the Great. When the king was presented with a petition on December 18 1766, he wrote in the margin: 'For that, Buchholtz has no money'. Derived from this is a Berlin expression that if you think there is money for such, you don't know your Buchholtz. *see* Buechmann, G. (1915) "Gefluegelte Worte", edited by Adolf Langen, Schreitersche Velagsbuchhandlung, Berlin.

Genealogie der Familie Benda

von

Ernst Benda

für seine Kinder

28. 9. 1901

Dezember 1957

Nach dem letzten, vorhandenen Exemplar

von Karl Benda

Berlin, den 28.September 1901

Wenn ich den 13. Ocotber d. J. erlebe, bin ich 76 Jahre lang am Dasein, das dem natürlichen Lauf der Dinge entsprechend, also nicht mehr allzulange dauern dürfte: da möchte es vielleicht einen oder anderen meiner Nachkommen interessieren, etwas Näheres über meine oder ihre Abstammung zu erfahren- sowie auch über die Vetternschaft, obwohl freilich viel Hervorragendes darüber nicht mitzuteilen ist.

Vielleicht schliesse ich daran eine Betrachtung über - oder eine Skizze von meinem Lebenslauf; aber auch in dieser Beziehung ist nichts Besonderes zu sagen: Es würde die Abspinnung eines einfach bürgerlichen Lebens werden. Ich habe zwar großartige politische und sociale Wandlungen der Allgemeinheit an mir vorüber ziehen sehen, bin aber leider meiner geringen Veranlagung und schwachherzigen Characterbildung gemäß dabei immer nur müssiger Zuschauer gewesen.- Zuschauer, der sogar nicht selten unrichtig verstand, was sich vor seinen sehenden Augen abspielte. Das Milieu, in welches ich einmal durch meine Geburt und Erziehung und späteren Lebensumstände geraten, scheint der kräftigeren Ausbildung meines Gehirns (alias Verstandeskräfte) nicht besonders günstig gewesen zu sein: mache man mir persönlich also keine Vorwürfe, daß ich kein hervorragender Volksmann, berühmter Künstler, ausgezeichneter Gelehrter oder großartiger Finanzmensch geworden, keinen Titel erlangte, mir nicht einmal den kleinsten bescheidensten Orden beschafft habe. Aus der Kindheit herauswachsend, war ich Streber ohne Tatkraft und Ausdauer, dann in wilder Jünglingskraft leichtfertig, unbedacht und schliesslich als gesetzter Familiengründer ängstlich zurückhaltend, nichts Unvorsichtiges wagend, alles vermeidend, was mich unnötig exponieren könnte. Schon längst, eigentlich seitdem ich aus wirklicher Lebenstätigkeit geschieden, sehe ich mein vergangenes inneres Leben, wie eben geschildert. Wäre es möglich gewesen, mich in meiner Entwicklungsperiode dahin zu bringen, vernünftig und energisch über mein zukünftiges Werden und Können nachzudenken, hätte ich mich vielleicht günstiger entwickelt, es wäre vielleicht, wie man so sagt, etwas aus mir geworden, denn ich war physisch und psychisch nicht von der Natur vernachlässigt: Nun aber, wenn ich zurückschaue, sehe ich, daß ich nur mit Millionen anderer ein ordinärer Baustein im Menschheitsgebäude geblieben, der, wenn er auch an seiner Stelle den ihm zugewiesenen Platz schlecht und recht ausgefüllt hat, doch morsch geworden achtlos dem Kehricht, das heisst der Vergessenheit anheimfällt.

Ich bin also eigentlich über den Verlauf meines Lebens recht unbefriedigt, besonders deshalb, weil ich mir selbst vielen Vorwurf nicht ersparen kann, aber andererseits darf ich mich über mein Geschick nicht beklagen, denn ich hatte eine vergleichsweise glückliche Kindheit und später eine glückliche Ehe, meine Vermögensumstände prosperierten, wenn auch in bescheidenen Verhältnissen, und durchschnittlich blieb ich von grösseren Unglücksfällen verschont (abgesehen von dem allzufrühen Tode meiner Frau).

Wer weiss, wenn sich mein Entwicklungs- und Lebensgang anders - nach meinen jetzigen Wünschen gestaltet hätte, ob ich dann das jetzige, ruhige, sorgenfreie und verhältnismässig gesunde Alter erreicht hätte, ob ich überhaupt dann nicht frühzeitig körperlich oder geistig gescheitert wäre !

Also sei ich, wenn auch nicht befriedigt, zufrieden, und glücklich im Vergessen dessen, was nun nicht mehr zu ändern ist.

Wie sagt der Vicar of Wakefild?

"I was ever of opinion, that the honest man, who marries and brings up a large family, does more service, than he who continues single, and talks only of population".

Nun also! Ich darf also stolz sein, für die "population" durch acht, glücklich herangewachsene Kinder gesorgt zu haben. Das "glücklich" bezieht sich freilich nur auf die Lebensdauer meiner Sprösslinge, nicht bei ihnen allen auf ihre Schicksale. Einigen von diesen achten ist es vorläufig nicht besonders nach Wunsch ergangen - mehr oder weniger sogar infolge eigenen Verschuldens, teilweise haben sie auch ihren Tribut an die menschliche Gesellschaft (seid fruchtbar und mehret Euch), der in der Bibel vorgeschrieben ist, noch nicht genügend entrichtet; doch sind mir immerhin schon 13 nette, mir Freude machende Enkel gezeugt worden: mein Geschlecht wird also vorläufig fortbestehen, und hoffen wir, vielleicht sich manch einer darunter finden, der sich als nützliches Mitglied der menschlichen Gesellschaft entwickelt. Dann hätte ich nicht umsonst existiert !

Genealogisches

Meine Eltern, beide in Berlin geboren, stammten von Juden ab. Mein Vater: Liepmann Alexander Benda, geboren 7. Februar 1784 starb am 10. April 1859, nachdem er schon ca 20 Jahre lang wahrscheinlich an einer Lungenverkalkung recht leidend gewesen. Er war Kaufmann, Händler mit rohen Häuten engros, und mit seinen Brüdern Moses und Daniel assoziiert; die Firma wurde aber schon etwa 1830 aufgelöst. Über seine Eltern weiss ich äusserst wenig, doch scheinen auch sie Berliner gewesen zu sein. Mein betreffender Großvater hat, glaube ich, Abraham geheissen, und erst seine Kinder nahmen den Namen Benda an, als im J. 1807 die preussischen Juden ihre Namen germanisieren mussten. Wie sie auf den ziemlich anständigen Namen Benda gekommen sind, habe ich vergessen oder nie erfahren. Der Name ist in Böhmen öfters vorhanden: hier in Berlin existierte Anfang des 19.Jahrhunderts nur ein bekannter Hofrat dieses Namens, der von dem vielgenannten Concertmeister des alten Fritz abstammte und als Junggeselle starb, und ausser unserer Familie nur noch ein Herr Jean Benda mit Kindern, dieser ebenfalls jüdischer Abstammung. Seitdem ist der Name, weniger durch Nachkommen der beiden Familien, wie durch Zuzug von auswärts häufiger in Berlin vorhanden. Nach einer anderen Version soll mein Großvater sich schon Da. Benda genannt haben und dessen Vorfahren schon im Jahre 1701 mit dem neugebackenen König Friedrich dem Ersten von Königsberg nach Berlin als Hofjuden gekommen sein.

Wann mein väterlicher Großvater gestorben, weiss ich nicht, die betreffende Großmutter starb etwa einhalb Jahr nach meiner Geburt. Ich habe sie also eigentlich nur in effigie kennengelernt, denn in dem Kontor meines Vaters stand eine gräuliche - das heisst von Farbe braungrüne - Gipsbüste, von strengen Gesichtszügen mit einer merkwürdig altmodischen, etwaige Haarfrisur discret verbergende Mütze auf dem Schädel, eine Büste, die uns Kindern so lange Gruseln machte, bis wir begriffen und glaubten, daß das keine Märchenhexe sondern unsere liebe gute Großmutter vorstellen sollte. Meine Mutter Johanna, geborene Riess, 12.Juli 1787, starb am 19.Februar 1867, und zwar war sie am grauen Star lange Zeit vorher ziemlich erblindet, aber bis zuletzt noch rührig und kräftig. Durch eine Erkältung bekam sie eine tödliche Lungenentzündung.
(Nachgetragene Daten: Großvater geb.15.1.1746, geh.1770, gest.9.10.1804; Großmutter geb.1750, gest.20.6.1824.)

Die Mutter meiner Mutter war eine geborene Leidersdorf aus Altona und eine Wwe Haller mit zwei Söhnen gewesen, bevor sie mein Großvater nahm. Der Vater meiner Mutter war aber ebenfalls schon verheiratet gewesen, und aus dieser früheren Ehe Vater von 3 Söhnen, so daß <u>meine</u> Mutter und ihre <u>rechten</u> 5 Geschwister, fünf Stiefgeschwister nach <u>zwei</u> Seiten hin hatten. Der Großvater hiess Koppel Riess und starb 1809. Die Familie Riess war aber höchst feudal, denn sie stammte direct von einem der acht Schutz-Juden ab, welche im 17ten Jahrhundert

aus Wien vertrieben, durch den großen Kurfürsten gnädigst in Berlin aufgenommen und unter den Bedingungen sesshaft gemacht worden, wie sie im besten Fall solchen Leuten, die man nur dulden darf, zuzubilligen sind. Die Familie Riess bildete sich aber auch nicht wenig auf ihre Ahnen ein; sie hatten alle so einen Zug ins Feine, Aristokratische, und mein Vater, der bis an sein Ende ein einfacher anspruchsloser Mann geblieben, antwortete meiner Mutter stets, wenn sie von ihren Verwandten sprach: "Ja, das sind aber auch Deine Makkabaer." Er behauptete dabei, daß sie einen Stammbaum bis Judas Makkabaeus hinauf besässen.

Ich lasse nun eine Tabelle meiner Verwandten ersten, zweiten und dritten Grades folgen, wobei ich bemerke, daß, da ich die meisten meiner Onkel und Tanten schon in der Kindheit verloren und teilweise sehr wenig gekannt hatte, ich bei vielen die Namen gar nicht mehr weiss, auch möglicherweise einige Irrtümer dabei begehe. Diejenigen, welche zum Christentum übergetreten, sind mit einem Kreuze, wie es sich gehört, bezeichnet, auch die als Christen geborenen. Auf chronologische Reihenfolge habe ich, mir als unmöglich, verzichtet. Einige im frühesten Lebensalter gestorbenen Kinder sind nicht berücksichtigt. (Chronologisch später geordnet.)

Benda'sche Familie

Meines Großvaters Kinder:

	1.Moses	geb.20.6.1772	verh.mit	Jettchen geb.Rubens	hatten	2 S.	2 T
	2.Gutchen "	19.7.1777	" "	Kfm.Borchardt	"	-	3 T
	3.Caroline"	3.9.1781	" "	Manuf.Händler Bahn	"	3 S.	2 T
+	4.Rosa "	3.9.1781	" "	Fabr.Sussmann	"	2 S.	1 T
	5.Liepmann Alexander	7.2.1784	" "	Johanna geb.Riese	"	3 S.	2 T
	6.Daniel Alexander	22.11.1786	" "	Feilchen " Sachs	"	1 S.	1 T
	7.Sarah	31.12.1789	" "	Börsenmakler Meier	"	4 S.	4 T
+	8.Marianna	12.12.1790	" "	Goldarbeiter Ende	"	1 S.	--
	9.Siegmund Alexander	23.1.1794	" "	Auguste geb.Rindler	"	3 S.	2 T
-	10.Therese	?	" "	Polizeirat Weber	"	2 S.	3 T

sind also:

10 Kinder, 10 Schwiegerkinder, 41 Enkel.

Von allen diesen lebten (im September 1901) nur noch 4 Enkel, nämlich:

Franziska Teltz geb.Benda 78 J.alt, Martin Bahn 75 J.alt, ich selbst 76 J. und (wahrscheinlich noch) Therese Balmer geb.Weber in America (St.Louis) ca 80 J.alt.

P.S. Franzisca Teltz und Martin Bahn starben im Mai u.Juni 1902.

R i e s s ' sche Familie

Großvaters Kinder mit seiner ersten Frau:

	1. Itzig Riess verh.mit Amalie geb.Mayer	hatten	3 S. - T.
	2. David Riess " " Rebecca (?)	"	1 S. 5 T.
+	3. Adolph (Aron) R.verh.mit ?	"	4 S. 4 T.

Kinder der zweiten Frau geb.Leidersdorf mit deren erstem Mann:

+	4. Martin Haller verh.mit ?	"	2 S. 1 T.
	5. Benny Haller " " geb.Landsberg verw.Markwald	"	1 S. 2 T.

Großvaters Kinder mit der zweiten Frau geb.Leidersdorf

6. Betty verh.mit Banquier Sussmann	"	2 S. 4 T.
7. Susanne " " Güterbock	"	8 S. 1 T.
8. Johanne " " L.A.Benda	"	3 S. 2 T.
9. Ida " " Kfm.Lehfeldt	"	4 S. 2 T.
10. Johann unverheiratet		
11. Helene "		

Von allen diesen lebten (im Sept.1901) nur noch 4: Gustav Güterbock 81 J.alt, Betty Riess 88 J.alt, mein Stiefvetter Benny Haller und ich selbst. Gelebt hatten: 11 Kinder, 9 Schwiegerkinder, 49 Enkel.

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Ich selbst habe an nahen Verwandten also gehabt:

1 Ehefrau
2 Eltern
4 Geschwister
4 Schwiegergeschwister - ungerechnet die Geschwister meiner Frau
18 Onkel
18 Tanten
43 Vettern
37 Muhmen

also 127 Personen, von denen im September 1901 nur noch sechs (6) lebten - aber inzwischen bis Juli 1902 wieder 3 gestorben sind, nämlich:

Betty Riess, Franziska Teltz, Martin Bahn.

Von den 7 Geschwistern meiner Frau waren 4 verheiratet, und von diesen 11 Personen leben nur noch vier: meine Schwägerinnen Frau Johanna Hanff und Frl.Agnes Hanff, Frau Sophie und Emma Hanff. Ich habe aber ausserdem noch meine Schwägerinnen Matilde und Pauline Benda am Leben.

Ich werde nun über die Personen der Verwandtschaft diejenigen Details bringen, die mir noch erinnerlich sind.

a. Väterliche Seite:

I. M o s e s   B e n d a

ist mir als kleiner, beleibter Herr mit freundlich gutmütigem Gesicht und einem steten Sammetkäppchen auf dem kahlen Schädel noch wohl erinnerlich, denn er starb erst Ende der 30er Jahre. Er muß ein recht orthodox denkender, für den jüdischen Glauben begeisterter Herr gewesen sein: Als er nach 1830 Rentier geworden, war seine Lieblingsbeschäftigung, frisch und ganz heil zur Welt gekommene Judenknaben acht Tage nach der Geburt - für Gotteslohn so zuzustutzen, daß sie sich als Jehovas Leibgardisten nie und nimmer wieder verleugnen konnten; der liebe Gott hatte aber kein Einsehen, denn er liess den braven Mann auf einer, zu dem bewussten Zweck in seinem Einspänner unternommenen Fahrt nach Potsdam verunglücken. Die schwere Kopfverletzung wurde zar durch Trepanation geheilt und mein Onkel lebte nachher noch 6 - 8 Jahre, die Verstandeskräfte aber waren hin.- Seine psychischen Entgleisungen waren eigener Art. Bei seinem Gespräch merkte man solange gar nichts von Geistesabwesenheit, bis er plötzlich von seinen früheren Lebensereignissen zu erzählen anhub; dann tischte er in regelmässig unabänderlicher Reihenfolge und fast wörtlich gleicher Satzbildung 4 - 5 Abenteuer auf, die ihm früher mit berühmten Persönlichkeiten - Ludwig Philipp, als derselbe noch Hauslehrer in der Schweiz; Sir Moses Montefiore in Jerusalem, Napoleon als Consul etc.,etc.- passiert sein sollten. In seinen letzten Lebensjahren musste er dann entmündigt werden, da ihm der Sinn für den Wert des Geldes verlorenging, so daß er z.B. einmal einem fremden Bettler ein paar silberne Esslöffel schenkte und dergl.Unsinn beging.

Von der Frau habe ich nur noch eine ganz undeutliche Erinnerung, als von einer kleinen, schmächtigen und nach meinen damaligen Begriffen unschönen Dame. Die 4 Kinder sind alle nicht alt geworden.

1. Die älteste Tochter Lina (oder Caroline?) heiratete den Kaufmann Hartwig Hirschfeld, und hatte mit diesem 2 Kinder: Jeanette verehel.Hahn und David (meinen späteren Nachbarn am Schöneberger Ufer). Hartwig H. nahm, als seine Frau nach kurzer Ehe gestorben war, eine zweite und hatte mit dieser 3 Töchter: Pauline, Clotilde, Zerline, wovon die erstgenannte als Frau meines Bruders Max, meine Schwägerin wurde.- Hartwig H. war ein höchst ehrenhafter, allgemein geachteter Herr.

2. Die zweite Tochter L e a wurde, nachdem sie vorher schon mit einem Herrn Marasse verheiratet gewesen, aber wie ich glaube, von diesem geschieden war, Frau eines Papierfabrikanten Rosenhain, und ich habe - trotzdem sie wohl erst in den Vierziger und Fünfziger Jahren gestorben - nur die eine, jedoch höchst angenehme Erinnerung an sie, daß sie meinen Eltern jede jüdische Ostern eine Masse "Matze" und einen Teller voll koscheren delikaten Rinder-"Pökelfleisches" verehrte, was dann beides höchst unritueller Weise mit Butter und Wohlbehagen bei uns zu Hause verzehrt wurde, uns aber durchaus nicht zur Frömmigkeit bekehrte.

3. Der älteste Sohn M e y e r (Martin) Benda übernahm mit seinem Bruder das 1830 von seinem Vater und seinen Onkeln (Liepmann und Daniel) unter der Firma Benda Gebrüder aufgegebene Häute-Geschäft, und beide führten es bis zu ihrem 1840er und 1850er Jahrzehnt erfolgten Tod unter der Firma M.Benda Söhne fort.

Martin Benda ist mir als ein guter, freundlicher Vetter erinnerlich, der stets gut gelaunt schien; besonders gedenke ich noch des Moments, als er meinen Eltern (die schon in der Neuen Schönhauserstrasse wohnten) seine Braut vorstellte; ich war damals erst etwa 8 bis 10 J. alt, urteilte aber schon richtig, daß das Fräulein - eine geb.Bendien - eine kleine rundliche Figur, aber ein allerliebstes Gesicht hatte, und fand es sehr natürlich, daß der glückliche Bräutigam sich im Küssen des bräutlichen Mundes, selbst in Gegenwart der anderen nicht gleiches Vorrecht Geniessender, nicht genug tun konnte.

Als die Hochzeit der Beiden gefeiert wurde, bei welcher meine Eltern zugegen gewesen waren, spielte sich bei uns zu Hause folgendes ab: Ich sehe meinen Vater im Frack und weisser Halsbinde auf dem Sopha sitzen; er ist aber in sehr ungemütlicher, melancholischer Verfassung und behauptet steif und fest, daß aller Champagner Gift sei, natürlich auch der, den er heute getrunken und daß er nunmehr sterben müsse. Daß meine Mutter solchem Unglück gegenüber bald lachte, bald schimpfte, d.h.Vatern anranzte, war mir total unerklärlich, und als mich Vater aufforderte, ihm zu versprechen, niemals Champagner zu trinken, gab ich dies Gelöbnis aus vollster, innerster Seele, habe es aber leider später so wenig gehalten, wie so manchen anderen löblichen Vorsatz.

Von der Hochzeit zum Grabe ist es oft nicht weit, und so hatte sich auch mein armer Vetter nicht allzulange seines Eheglücks zu erfreuen. Er starb im besten Mannesalter, nachdem er einem Sohn und mehreren Töchtern das Leben gegeben, an einem Krebsleiden. Mein Vater erzählte dann öfters folgendes: Ausser der kleinen Witwe war ein langjähriger treuer Buchhalter übrig geblieben, und beide trafen sich bald nach dem Tode zufällig am Grabe des hingegangenen Freundes, um seiner pietätvoll zu gedenken.

Dort, von ihrem Schmerz übermannt, versagten der trauernden Witwe die Kräfte, eine Bank war nicht vorhanden und so sank sie in die glücklicherweise zur rechten Zeit ausgebreiteten Arme des Buchhalters, der alles tat, die Unglückliche zu trösten. Diese Sache wiederholte sich bald darauf ein zweitesmal, und da dann jedenfalls Beiden die Art Tröstung behagte, fanden sie es richtiger und auch bequemer, sich lieber zu heiraten und auf solche Weise den weiten Weg nach dem Kirchhof zu sparen. Der Name dieses zweiten Mannes ist mir entfallen; ich weiss nur, daß auch er nicht lange darauf an der Schwindsucht starb. Auch der einzige Sohn meines Vetters Martin starb im blühenden Alter von 21 Jahren. Von den Töchtern wohnte eine, Frau Stern, uns gegenüber in der Schönhauserstrasse (auch schon als junge Witwe). Eine zweite Tochter ist an den bekannten Stadtrat Mamroth verheiratet.

+ 4. Der andere Sohn A l e x a n d e r war ein reizender, jovialer Kerl, überall beliebt, zu jedem harmlosen Ulk aufgelegt. Er verkehrte viel im Königstädter Theater am Alexanderplatz, das im damaligen Berlin durch seine Oper (wo die Sonntag und Haenel engagiert waren) und durch seine Komödien (mit Schmelke, Spitzeder, Beckmann) eine grosse Rolle spielte. Er fand dadurch auch sein Eheglück, indem er die am Theater engagierte schöne und höchst respectable Choristin Fräulein Schelter heiratete. Er starb aber auch leider im kräftigsten Mannesalter (plötzlich am Schlagfluss, so daß man noch die brennende Cigarre in seiner Hand fand) und hinterliess mehrere Söhne, von denen der Kunstgärtner Carl Benda in der Magazinstrasse viel genannt wurde.

II. Liepmann Alexander Benda

Frau Johanna geb.Riess, deren Geburts- und Todesdaten schon oben angeführt sind; auch über ihre wie der Kinder Lebensschicksale folgt hier nur Statistisches, da ich über das Specielle wohl in meinen aufzuschreibenden Erinnerungen noch sprechen werden.

1. Tochter, älteste Cölestine geb.27.April 1813, gest.14.Nov.1842, verh.mit Julius Friedemann aus Zehdenick, der hier U.d.Linden 19 ein Bankgeschäft hatte und nebenbei eine Silberwarenfabrik betrieb, gest.16.8.1843.
   + deren Sohn Felix geb.1839, gest.1896

2. Tochter Auguste geb.9.März 1815, gest.21.Sept.1871, verh.mit Adolph Friedemann, der erst in Zehdenik eine Ölmühle in Pacht betrieb, und später etwa 1848 - 49 nach Berlin übersiedelte; er starb 15.Jan.1871.
   Zwei Söhne: a Julius geb.18.Jan.1843
   b Edmund geb.1. Dec.1847

\+ 3. Sohn Karl geb.22.Jan.1818, gest.14.August 1855 war erst Kreisrichter, dann Gutsbesitzer, verh.mit Matilde Petrich aus Sommersin bei Tuchel
+ 1 Sohn Max gest.August 1878, geb.1850
+ 2 Töchter Cölestine verehel.Guderian, geb.1851
Johanna " Dr.Rosenow und geschieden, geb.1853

4. Sohn Max geb.6. April 1820, gest.23. April 1895, Arzt, verh.mit Pauline Hirschfeld
Söhne: a Dr.Theodor (Arzt) verh.mit Bertha Löwy
b Siegmund, Kaufmann " " Marg.Ahronheim
c Otto, Rentier unverh.
Töchter: + Ida verehel.mit Sam.Reich
e Johanna " " Alex.Bernstein

5. Sohn Ernst geb.13. Oct.1825, verh.mit Virginie Hanff, geb.12.Aug.1836, gest.9.Nov.1884
Söhne: + a Carl, Dr.med.Professor und Prosector am Urban geb.30. Dec.1857, verh.mit Luise Rohde
+ b Martin, geb.28. Nov.1865, unverh.
+ c Hans, Reg.Baumeister geb.23. Nov.1867 verh.mit Marg.Marsmann
+ d Alexander, Landwirt geb.4.Mai 1872, verh.mit Maria Schoch
Töchter: e Clara, geb.10. Juli 1860 verh.mit Ludwig Berg
+ f Anna, geb.5. Mai 1862 verh.und geschieden mit Prof.Fechner, dann vereh.Duntz
+ g Margarethe, geb.6. Febr.1864, gesch.von Dr.Vowinckel
+ h Victoria, geb. 12. Aug.1870 verh.mit Ernst Zaeslein

II. Daniel Alexander Benda
war, wie ich glaube, 2 Jahre jünger als mein Vater, und starb hochbetagt, aber seit einiger Zeit erblindet, in den 1870er Jahren. Es war eine energische, ideal angele... für Menschenwohl schwärmende, sich in philosophische Probleme vertiefende Natur, die wohl Tüchtiges hätte leisten können, wenn er jung die erforderliche Bildungsunterlage erhalten haben würde, oder später im Stande gewesen wäre, sich noch das Fehlende anzueignen. An Streben darnach hat es nicht gefehlt, aber es gelang ihm damit nicht recht. Er schrieb z.B. dicke philosophische Bücher, die er auf seine Kosten drucken liess, die aber niemand durchzulesen vermochte, weil die Satzbildung, der Stil und demnach auch die Gedankenfolge Jedermann unverständlich blieben. In Vereinen und Versammlungen trat er oft als Redner auf, doch war seine oratorische Gabe ebenfalls unbedeutend, und eine fein ausgearbeitete, sich streng logisch abspinnende, oder durch glückliche Einfälle gewürzte, glänzend

rednerische Leistung blieb ihm versagt. Demungeachtet wirkte er manchmal auf die Menge durch kraftvoll emphatische Wendungen, denen man die ehrliche Überzeugungstreue anmerkte. Er wurde seines biderben Wesens wegen überall hoch geachtet, und so wählte man ihn in die Stadtverordneten-Versammlung, und diese machte ihn bald zum Stadtrat - ein häufiges Mittel, um unangenehme Schreier und Nörgler kalt zu stellen.
Vor meinem inneren Auge steht noch seine kraftvolle Persönlichkeit, seine blitzenden dunklen Augen, seine hohe Stirn und sein energischer Mund, und ich höre noch seine gewöhnlich im Brustton innerster Überzeugung sprechende, sonore Stimme.

In glücklicher Ehe lebte er mit seiner 8 Jahre älteren Frau, die er, selbst erst 21 Jahre alt, geheiratet, als es ihm noch die grösste Mühe machte, sich die nötige Einrichtung für 200 Th. anzuschaffen.- Tante Feilchen war wirklich wie ein bescheidenes, liebliches Veilchen, stets freundlichen, milden Wesens. Ich kannte sie ja nur als kleine, alte Frau, aber mit ihrem lieblichen Gesicht unter der weissen Haube, im einfachen sauberen Kleide, wie aus dem Ei gepellt, Jeden anheimelnd. Sie starb ca 80 Jahre alt plötzlich - ich glaube 1858.

Onkel Daniel war in religiöser Beziehung Freigeist, in politischer ein entschiedener Republikaner. Characteristisch ist folgendes:

Ich traf den Onkel am 17. März 1848 vor dem alten Museum im Lustgarten, und fragte ihn natürlich bei der aufgeregten Zeit, was es Neues gäbe. Statt aller Antwort packt er mich und dreht mich mit dem Gesicht nach dem Schloß, dann sagt er: "Sieh Dir noch einmal den Kasten da an; morgen wird kein Stein mehr auf dem andern sein". Dann liess er mich mit offenem Munde stehen. Die Weissagung ging zwar nicht in Erfüllung, aber der 18. März 1848 war der nächste Tag.

Das Ehepaar hatte, nachdem eine Tochter Anna im Kindesalter gestorben, noch 2 Kinder:

+ 1. <u>Eda</u>
+ 2. <u>Anton</u>, die beide unter dem Einfluß des damals berühmten Kanzelredners Schleiermacher aus Überzeugung zum Christentum übertraten.

Eda war eine Dame, geistreich und hochgebildet, besonders in der Musik (welche überhaupt in der ganzen Benda'schen Familie sehr geliebt und gepflegt wurde) und heiratete schon hoch in den Zwanzigern einen Baumeister Hoffmann, der Witwer mit zwei erwachsenen Kindern gewesen (Tochter und Sohn). Sie gebar dann ihrem Manne noch 7 oder 8 Kinder, von denen aber der grössere Teil jung an allerhand Krankheiten starb, wobei ihre Seelengröße in ihrem unermesslichem Schmerz mir unvergesslich bleibt, besonders das einemal, als sie ein liebliches Knaben "Zwillingspaar" in wenigen Stunden an der Cholera verloren hatte. Mit ihrem Manne kann sie nicht glücklich gelebt haben, denn das war ein

brutaler, schliesslich halb verrückter und auch zu Ausschweifungen neigender Mensch, der seit etwa 10 - 15 Jahren hochbetagt gestorben ist.

Als Hoffmann in die Familie kam, war er am Bau des neuen Museums beschäftigt, später beschäftigte er sich mit Privatbauten und auch wohl mit Grundstücksspeculationen, und sein Vermögensstand soll manchmal recht prekär gewesen sein. Er war schuld, daß mein Vater viele Jahre mit Onkel Daniel, Hoffmanns Schwiegervater, auseinander kam .... (s.Manuscr.)
Die Spannung hielt bis zu meines Bruders Carl Tod im J.1855 an; dann trat wieder ein leidliches Verhältnis zwischen den Familien ein .... (s.Manuscr.)

Einige Jahre vor diesem neuen Zerwürfnis war Frau Eda an einem langjährigen Krebsleiden gestorben und ich wohnte der Bestattung bei, die von der Leichenhalle eines Kirchhofs an der Landsberger Chaussee stattfinden sollte. Die Trauerversammlung wartete schon mehr als eine halbe Stunde über die angesetzte Zeit, aber der "Hauptleidtragende" - der Ehemann - fehlte. Alles wurde sehr ungeduldig, und Polizeirat Solmer - ein Verwandter der Hoffmann'schen Familie, ein sehr sarkastischer, humorvoller Herr - brach in die Worte aus: "Ach, warten wir nicht länger, der Mann hat ja an die ganze Geschichte verjessen." Als dann der Trauergesang begann - ein Geistlicher war nicht zugezogen - fand sich im letzten Moment doch noch der trauernde Gatte ein.

Von seinen Söhnen war später der Rechtsanwalt Victor Hoffmann mit seiner Frau Anna, geb. Schneider, häufig Gast in meiner Häuslichkeit, ein tüchtiger Sänger mit mächtiger Baßstimme, aber eine verrückte Schraube, er starb auch jung, geisteskrank geworden.

Ein anderer Sohn Emanuel, lebt als Oberverwaltungsgerichtsrat hier. Diesen traf ich nach Frankreichs Kriegserklärung im Juli 1870, als ich von Wiesbaden nach Hause fuhr, im Eisenbahn-Coupe! Er war als lebensfrischer Studio mit vielen Kommilitonen ohne Besinnen von Heidelberg weggereist, um sich in den Dienst des Vaterlandes zu stellen, und hat dann den Krieg auch glücklich bestanden.

Mein Vetter Anton Bonda war ein angenehmer, sympathischer Mann, ich bin aber nicht viel mit ihm zusammengekommen. Er widmete sich dem Baufach, heiratete Frl.Agnes Hoffmann, die Schwester seines Schwagers - auch eine sympathische Erscheinung, mit der er lange in glücklicher Ehe gelebt - und domicilierte in Lübeck, wo er Betriebsdirector der Lübeck-Büchener Eisenbahn und ein bekannter angesehener Mann wurde. Er ist seit 5 - 10 J. tot und hat mehrere Söhne hinterlassen, die ich aber nie kennengelernt habe.

IV. Siegmund Alexander Benda
wurde 1794 geboren und starb 1864. Er machte die Feldzüge 1813 - 1815 erst als freiwilliger Jäger, dann zum Offizier avanciert und mit dem eisernen Kreuz (für Tapferkeit bei Verteidigung einer Brücke) dekoriert, glücklich ohne die geringste Wunde zu erhalten mit und heiratete Frl. Auguste Rindler, die Tochter eines kleinen Materialisten aus der Holzmarkstrasse, die 1859, etwa 60 Jahre alt, an einem Herzleiden starb. Des kleinen Ladens in der Holzmarktstr., halb im Souterrain gelegen, aus welchem Tante Gustchen - aller Neffen und Nichten Lieblings "Tante" stammte, erinnere ich mich noch ganz deutlich.

Onkel Alexander, so hiess er ganz speciell in der Familie, widmete sich dem Börsengeschäft, als Coutier (Makler, der alle Geschäfte auf eigenen Namen vermittelt) bis 1840 ungefähr mit sehr wechselndem Erfolg, von dann ab jedoch mit sehr guten Resultaten, denn er wurde bei weitem der angesehenste, beliebteste und gewandteste Coutier. Das Börsengeschäft hatte ja damals und sogar bis zur Zeit vor Onkels Tod noch lange nicht die Ausdehnung und Bedeutung der späteren Epochen, aber er wäre sicher als sehr reicher Mann gestorben, wenn ihn nicht in den letzten Lebensjahren Torheiten seiner Söhne sehr große Opfer gekostet hätten. Darauf komme ich noch zurück. Tante Gustchen blieb ihr Leben lang eine einfache anspruchslose Frau, Onkelchen aber liebte ein wenig ein nobles Auftreten nach Aussen, besonders seitdem das neue Haus Münzstr. 18 fertig geworden und bezogen war (etwa 1846-47) und das Geld lief ihm leicht durch die Finger.

In der vorherigen Wohnung Münzstr. 8 herrschte noch das altberlinisch bürgerliche Lokal "Colorit" und da ging es entsprechend simpler zu, aber ich habe daselbst viele glückliche Stunden meiner Kindheit verlebt, wobei die gute Tante eine Hauptrolle spielte. Sie war immer gleichmässig liebevoll, und wenn sie mir einen Knuff in die Seite gab (was sie fast nie unterliess) und sagte: "Na, mein dicker Kanonenstöpsel", dann fühlte ich mich ordentlich wohlig. Es war als Frau und Mutter eine der bravsten Charaktere und gegen jeden fernerstehenden höchst sympathisch wirkend, bis in ihr Alter von sehr angenehmen Äusseren; in der Jugend soll sie schön gewesen sein. Jedenfalls wurde ihr zu früher Tod von allen, die sie kannten, tief bedauert und betrauert.- Der Onkel gab sich nach aussen hin als schroffen Gegensatz zu seiner Frau: so gleichmässig sanft und freundlich sie stets war, so wild hitzig und unvermittelt laudenhaft von der wütendsten Heftigkeit zur warmherzigsten Güte übergehend, war man ihn zu sehen gewohnt; dabei hatte er ein enthusiastisches Gemüt und schwärmte für Natur und Kunst oft ganz überschwänglich. Ich lernte ihn sehr genau kennen, denn ich hatte ihn nicht nur als Kind schon viel vor Augen, sondern verlor ihn auch aus denselben später nur selten, besonders da ich als junger Mann in seinem Comptoir mehrere Jahre lang fungierte und dann später an der Börse viel

geschäftlich auch mit ihm zu tun hatte. Charakteristisch ist die Angst, die wir alle als Kinder, besonders aber seine eigenen, vor ihm hatten: Keines wagte in seiner Gegenwart zu sprechen oder nur zu muksen. Und an der Börse spielte er eine eigentümliche Rolle: Man spottete oder lachte auch über sein Gebaren, aber jeder hatte Furcht, mit Respekt gemischt, vor ihm. Eine gewisse Szene ereignete sich fast täglich. Hatte ihn irgend Einer durch eine ihm nicht genehme Rede oder Handlung geärgert, so pflegte Onkel das dichteste Menschengewimmel, seine Arme rücksichtslos nach beiden Seiten ausbreitend, auseinander zu schieben, bis der Attentäter ihm allein gegenüber stand und dann donnerte es auf denselben zum Gaudium der ganzen Corona hageldicht herab, wobei dem Unglücklichen Sehen und Hören verging. Wegen Injurien ist Onkel nie verklagt worden; man wusste, wie man mit ihm daran war und nicht selten kniff er nach 5 Minuten nach einer solchen Szene dem eben Angeschnauften liebevoll in die Backe. Kladderadatsch brachte mal eine humorvolle Beschreibung des Börsenverkehrs; jede dritte Zeile darin, kehrte die später, geflügeltes Wort gewordene Redensart wieder: "Wer schreit? Benda schreit!"

Onkel war trotzdem ein höchst unterhaltender, sogar liebenswürdiger und heiterer Gesellschafter und in seinem Kriegskameraden "Verein" als Mitglied der grossen Loge, wo er ein hohes Amt bekleidete und in jeder Privatgesellschaft sehr beliebt. Seinen gesellschaftlichen Verbindungen, die in hohe Kreise hinauf gingen, verdankte er es dann auch, daß er von Friedrich Wilhelm IV, nicht nur verschiedene Orden einheimste, sondern auch zum Geh.Kommerzienrat ernannt wurde. Dabei muß ich erwähnen, daß er auch in den ersten Verwaltungsrat der Anhalter Eisenbahn kam. Als Ende März 1848 die Bürgerwehr gebildet wurde, machte man ihn zum Major, d.h. zum Kommandeur von ca 20 Stadtbezirken. Das hatte für ihn einige unangenehme Folgen. Am 14.Juni dieses tollen Jahres stürmten aufgehetzte Volkshaufen das Zeughaus und nahmen auch einen Teil der damals neu erfundenen Zündnadelgewehre fort, ehe von allen Seiten der Stadt die Bürgerwehr zum Schutze des Staatseigentums herangerückt war. Das gelang auch ohne das geringste Blutvergiessen, das Zeughaus wurde von etwas Militär besetzt und die Bürger rückten in ihre Bezirke zurück. Unsere Bezirkskompanie stand noch, wie überall die übrigen, in Besorgnis neuer Unruhen, beisammen - und zwar Ecke Schönhauser- und Weinmeisterstrasse, als plötzlich Ehlert, der langjährige Buchhalter meines Vaters, schreckensbleich auf mich zueilte, mir zu sagen, daß Volksmassen dabei wären, das neu gebaute und unlängst bezogene Haus meines Onkels, Münzstrasse 18 zu demolieren, weil derselbe angeblich am Zeughaus seiner Wehr zu schiessen kommandiert und dadurch mehrere Menschen getötet habe. Natürlich war hieran kein Wort wahr, aber die Volkswut prüft nicht, sondern folgt dem Impulse.

Ich trat sofort aus der Reihe und teilte unserem Hauptmann laut die oben erhaltene Nachricht mit, ihn ersuchend, die Compagnie schleunigst zum Schutze des bedrohten Eigentums zu beordern und zu dem etwa 6 Minuten entfernten Schauplatz zu führen. Aber da kam ich schön an! Der Hauptmann, ein Rentier Windisch, und sogar alter Kriegskamerad meines Onkels erklärte, er dürfe ohne Befehl des Majors die Compagnie nicht aus dem Bezirke herausnehmen, und die guten Spiessbürger allesamt waren natürlich gleicher Meinung. Ich sollte indes unserem Herrn Major Herrn v.Gärtner (Gutsbesitzer am Schönhauser Tor wohnend) Rapport bringen und seine Willensmeinung einholen. Mir blieb also nichts übrig, wie im Galopp bei furchtbarer Hitze mindestens 10 Minuten die ganze alte Schönhauserstrasse hinunterzulaufen, und nicht wenig aufgeregt war ich dabei, denn ich musste mir sagen, daß in der verlorenen Zeit wohl kein Stein mehr auf dem anderen von dem schönen neuen, wohnlich eingerichteten Haus sein werde.

Als Herr v.Gaertner meine Meldung gehört, kommandierte er sofort seine Leute zum Geschwindmarsch nach der Münzstrasse und als ich zu meiner Compagnie zurückgekehrt war, erfuhr ich, daß bereits alle Gefahr beseitigt worden, indem es sofort den herbeigerufenen Wehrleuten des Bezirkes, in welchem das bedrohte Haus liegt, gelungen war, die Populace zu Paaren zu treiben. Freilich waren einige Rolljalousien, die in der Eile herabgelassen worden und einige Scheiben durch Steinwürfe bereits zum Teufel gegangen. Meiner Tante war, als sie noch eilig etwas Nötiges zusammenraffen wollte, ein grosser Feldstein, der durch Jalousie und Fenster geflogen kam, vor die Füsse gerollt; sie und Onkel hatten sich dann hinten heraus nach der kl.Alexanderstr. hin in Sicherheit gebracht.

Noch eine Aktion meines Onkels als Bürger "Major" will ich erwähnen. Als Wrangel am 9.Oct. mit seinem eben eingerückten Militär den Gendarmen Markt umzingelt hatte, wo die ganze Bürgerwehr zum Schutze der National-Versammlung in erbärmlich bemitleidenswertem Zustande und schon auf den zehnten Teil durch Ausreissen gelichtet, lag, da war es gegen 4 Uhr nachmittag, daß mein Onkel mit dem "siegreichen" General die Bedingungen des Abzuges der Bürger vereinbarte und durchsetzte, daß dies unter dem Klange unserer Trommeln zugestanden wurde. Es war das letzte Mal, daß mein Onkel, wie ich, dem Kalbsfell folgten - selbst geschah es nicht, als er im Mai 1864 begraben wurde: Da hatte der alte Krieger keine Trommel oder Musikbegleitung, es folgten aber oben erwähnter Herr Windisch mit noch einigen Veteranen in alter Uniform.

Wie schon angedeutet, brachten die letzten Lebensjahre meinem Onkel durch Verschulden der Söhne große Verluste, mit viel seelischer Aufregung verbunden........(s.Manuscr.)

Wieviel er trotzdem noch hinterliess, weiss ich ziemlich genau, da ich als stellvertretender Testamentsvollstrecker für Ferd.Güterbock, der 1870 starb, eingesetzt war, und dies Amt von da ab verwaltete. Die 3 Söhne hatten

natürlich gar nichts mehr zu erben gehabt; Onkel hatte aber den 9 Kindern derselben, für jeden Erbstrang 20,000 Thl. festgelegt. Ich nahm die betr.Vermögensstücke in meine Obhut, und zahlte dann jedem der Betreffenden bei eintretender Majorität seinen Teil aus. Die Zinsen hatten die Eltern jedes Quartal zur Erziehung erhalten. - Meine Mitcuratoren waren Justizrat Hinschius für die juristischen Geschäfte und Wilh.Kahlbaum gewesen. Ersterer starb schon Anfang der 1870er Jahre; letzterer in den 1880er Jahren, dieser hatte sich aber bei der Verwaltung nur durch seine Unterschriften beteiligt.

In religiöser Beziehung war Onkel freidenkend, in politischer war er loyaler Monarchist gewesen; er stand daher mit seinem Bruder Daniel stets auf Kriegsfuss. Es waren eben ganz verschiedene Naturen und konnten sich nicht miteinander "verknusen". Anscheinend ist auch zwischen Beiden einmal irgend etwas Trennendes vorgefallen.

*) irrtümlich! Ich habe Hinschius noch in den Achtziger Jahren kennengelernt. C.B.

Onkels Kinder waren:

- 1. Clara verh.mit Gymnas.Direktor Heidemann, erst in Posen, dann in Stettin.- Clara war eine etwas steife korrekte Person von Jugend auf; in späteren Jahren sehr zur Frömmigkeit (Bigotterie) neigend. Sie starb in den 1880er Jahren, ihr Mann mehrere Jahre vorher, und sie hinterliessen 6 Kinder.
  + a. Gustav Heidemann wurde Offizier und starb als Major der Artillerie, war verheiratet mit seiner Cousine Margarethe Teltz, Tochter von Franziska, die jetzt als Witwe bei der Mutter lebt.
  + b. Victor Heidemann, Oberlehrer am Wilhelms-Gymnasium, seit kurzem Professor, verh. mit geb.Schmilinsky, sehr nette Dame.
  + c. Johannes H. ist Jurist, ich glaube Landgerichtsrat auswärts, verh.mit geb.Lazarus aus Charlottenburg
  + d. Anna, unverh.und gemütskrank geworden, soll jetzt wieder gesund sein.
  + e. Marie, auswärts verh. mit einem Gymnasial-Direktor Scheibe in Elberfeld
  + f. Albert, Kaufmann in Amerika.
- 2. Franzisca, geb.etwa 1823, heiratete den Prokuristen der großen Zuckerraffinerie Jacobs in Potsdam, mit Namen Emil Teltz, auf dessen Familie weiter unten noch einige

Mal die Rede kommt. Emil T. war ein liebenswürdiger hübscher Mann, und Franziska ein nettes, ansehnliches Persönchen. Leider dauerte die glückliche Ehe nicht lange, denn der Mann starb nach 18 Jahren in der Blüte der Jahre. Die Frau lebt noch, körperlich und geistig sehr rüstig, trotzdem ihr manches Unglück beschieden war.

Der Ehe entsprossen 6 Kinder:

+ a. Margarethe, verh. mit ihrem Vetter Gust. Heidemann, wie oben erwähnt frühzeitig Witwe geworden.

+ b. Heinrich, anfangs Kaufmann, sattelte aber bald zum Soldatenstand um und starb, ich glaube als Major ebenfalls verhältnismässig jung, nachdem er mit zwei Generalstöchtern verheiratet gewesen. Nach dem Tode der ersten nahm er deren Schwester, die nun hier auch als Witwe bei ihrer Schwiegermutter lebt.

+ c. Kurt hat sich mehrfach in kaufmännischen Stellungen versucht, war auch mal in Amerika, und ist jetzt in bescheidener Stellung bei einer Bank.

+ d. Fritz wurde Arzt, scheint aber perverse Neigungen gehabt zu haben, dann als verheirateter Mann in Thüringen ansässig, kam er in höchst unliebsamer Weise mit dem Strafrecht in Konflikt und ich weiss nicht, was aus ihm geworden.

+ e. Hans wurde Baumeister, ging nach Amerika und soll nicht mehr am Leben sein.

+ f. Georg war erst Seemann, dann Kaufmann, verh. mit einer Tochter des bekannten Ballettmeisters Hognet, ist ebenfalls tot.

+ 5. Heinrich etwa 1821 geboren, starb Anfang 1870er Jahre als Oberförster in Charlottenburg (Grunewald), war verheiratet mit Anna Knight, einer reizend, ätherisch schönen Person, die vor einigen Jahren erst verschied, nachdem sie viele Jahre lang sehr leidend gewesen. Der Vater dieser Anna Knight war ein in Potsdam als Privatier lebender, sehr reicher Engländer gewesen, der aber seinen Besitz auf die unsinnigste Weise vergeudete, so daß bei seinem Tode Frau und Kinder (er hinterliess ausser der Tochter noch einen Sohn) nicht mehr viel vorfanden. Die Mutter war eine geb. Teltz, Cousine des oben erwähnten Emil Teltz und Schwester der Frau meines unten zu erwähnenden Vetters Moritz.

Heinrich Benda war ein hübscher Kerl und da er, nachdem er die Forstkarriere ergriffen, bald die schmucke Feldjäger-Uniform anziehen und sich als Offizier dünken durfte, so kriegten auch bald verschwenderische Neigungen in lockerer Gesellschaft Gewalt über ihn.- Er führte tolle Sachen aus, wobei das Schlimmste war, daß sein Vater mit Stolz auf den forschen Sohn blickte und erklärte:

"Mein Heinrich gibt viel Geld aus, aber nobel."

Na, die Noblesse kam ihm im Laufe der Jahre recht teuer zu stehen, bei der Launenhaftigkeit des Alten gab es auch recht häufig aufregende Auftritte.- Nach Heinrichs Verheiratung und Anstellung wurde es besser, seine Verhältnisse waren aber nie sehr rangiert, und sein Bruder Johannes hat wohl viel durch seine Prokura - freilich auf unrechtmässige Weise - aushelfen müssen.

Nach seiner Anstellung in Grunewald wurde er mit dem bekannten Gründer und Grundstücks-Spekulanten Quistorp liiert und bei seinem Tode 1871 fand sich, daß er im Westend Charlottenburg grössere Grundstück-Komplexe besass. Dieselben hätten 20 Jahre später ein grosses Vermögen repräsentiert, ich glaube aber, daß sie auch damals mit einem schönen Nutzen durch die Nachlasskuratoren realisiert worden sind, so daß Witwe und Kinder anständig zu leben hatten. Es blieben 3 Söhne, von denen die beiden älteren (+ Alexander und Richard) Landwirte, aber nur Inspektoren oder Administratoren wurden. Der dritte + Paul wurde Offizier, hat sich aber, als mein Sohn Hans in Hannover im selben Regiment, wo jener Oberleutnant war, als Volontair diente, gegen letzteren nicht als Verwandten zu erkennen gegeben.

4. Johannes geb.24. Juni 1825, gest.1869 an Typhus, war mit mir also fast gleichaltrig und, da die Familie stets in der Nähe der meinigen wohnte und wir beide dieselbe Schule besuchten, so waren wir in der Kindheit sehr viel zusammen und sind auch später nie ganz auseinander gekommen.- In der Jugend etwas locker, wurde er ein guter Gatte und Familienvater, nachdem er 30 Jahre alt, Frl.Minna Hauschild, Tochter eines Maschinenfabrikanten in der Neanderstrasse und zweitälteste von 9 Schwestern geheiratet hatte. Der Schwiegervater starb bald nach dieser Heirat und hinterliess etwas Vermögen, aber Johannes blieb doch meist auf die Einnahmen aus seiner Stellung im Mühlengeschäfte seines Vaters angewiesen und dann liess er sich verleiten, seine Prokura zu Mahlversionen zu missbrauchen.- Der Vater kaufte ihm nachher eine Buchdruckerei und Johannes bemühte sich fleissig und pflichtgetreu, den Unterhalt für seine Familie zu bestreiten und die heranwachsenden 5 Kinder gut zu erziehen; sie sind dann auch tüchtig und brav geworden. Die Witwe hat nun ihren Mann bereits 32 Jahre überlebt. Es ist eine einfache aber gutmütige liebe Frau, die sehr an der Familie hängt.
Von den Kindern ist der einzige Sohn

- a. Eugen als Jüngling von einigen 20 Jahren früh gestorben, war Kaufmann geworden, aber in seiner kurzen Wirksamkeit nicht erfolgreich gewesen.

- b. Marie (eine schöne allerliebste Persönlichkeit) in jeder Beziehung glücklich an Felix Kühne, jetzigen Inhaber der Thomas'schen Maschinenfabrik (auf dem Gesundbrunnen) verheiratet.

+ c. Margarethe heiratete einen Herrn Senkbeil, der in vorerwähnter Fabrik angestellt ist, soll nach jeder Beziehung in guten Verhältnissen leben.

+ d. Meta leider unverheiratet geblieben, obwohl sie sicher jeden vernünftigen Mann glücklich gemacht hätte, verdient sich nebenbei recht hübsches Geld durch Klavierunterricht ebenso wie die jüngste Schwester.

+ e. Elise fleissiges und gutes "Mädchen" weil auch keinen Mann gefunden (gab unserem Hans Vowinckel den ersten Klavierunterricht).

+ 5. P a u l etwa 3 Jahre jünger wie Johannes, war dem Äusseren nach ein angenehmer Mensch, auch wohl eigentlich von gutmütigem Charakter, hat aber von Jugend auf nicht gut getan. Schon als Kind war er schwer zu bändigen, in der Schule lernte er so wenig wie möglich und, da ihn die schwache Mutter sehr liebte und verzog, der Vater aber sich seines aufregenden Geschäftes wegen um die Erziehung gar nicht kümmerte, gewann er niemals die Kraft, seine niedrigen Neigungen zu bekämpfen und zu bändigen. Er blieb sich sogar gleich, nachdem er jung geheiratet und 2 Kinder hatte.

Er sollte oder wollte Landwirt werden, man schickte ihn zu verschiedenen Prinzipalen und als ihn dann der Vater nach Schöpfurt zur Bewirtschaftung nahm, heiratete er ein Frl. Emilie Block, Tochter eines kleinen Besitzers - eine durchaus brave, aber äusserlich und innerlich reizlose Dame.- In Schöpfurt verübte Paul die törichtsten Streiche und gab Geld auf die sinnloseste Weise aus. Als ich mal zum Besuch dorten war, betrieb er vor meinen Augen und trotzdem ich ihn toll schalt, den Sport, die neugebaute Gartenmauer eines Nachbargartens zu zerstören, dessen Besitzer schmunzelnd zusah, weil er wusste, daß ihm der Schaden zum dreifachen Wert ersetzt werden musste.

Wie nun die Sache in Schöpfurt ein böses Ende genommen hatte, wurde Paul als Beamter für bescheidenes Gehalt auf verschiedenen Stellen untergebracht, so schliesslich in einer Zuckerfabrik bei Stettin, wo er sich, da kein Geld in seine Hände kam und seine zunehmende Herzkrankheit ihn für Excesse unfähig machte, mehrere Jahre hielt, bis ihn ein frühzeitiger Tod Mitte der 70er Jahre ereilte. Aber vorher noch in Schöpfurt hatte er Dinge begangen, von denen ich nur erfuhr, daß sie ihn mit dem Strafrichter in Berührung gebracht. Ob er gesessen, ob er auch einige Zeit nach Amerika gehen musste, ist tot-geschwiegen worden; nur so viel hiess es in der Familie, daß Paul an dem rapiden Zunehmen des Herzleidens seiner guten Mutter und an ihrem frühzeitigen Ende schuld sei.

Diese unerfreuliche Schilderung kann ich wenigstens mit der angenehmen Nachricht schliessen, daß zwei Kinder brave, ordentliche Menschen - wenn auch in sehr bescheidenen Verhältnissen - geworden sind.

\+ a. Martha ist an einen Kunstgärtner Schulz verheiratet, der erst bei Siemens in Charlottenburg, dann bei Kommerzienrat Veit, in dessen Lichtenfelder Park als Obergärtner fungierte.

\+ b. Ernst wurde Kaufmann, heiratet und lebt, soviel ich weiss, in einer Pommer'schen Provinzialstadt, als Inhaber eines Produkten- und Kolonialwarengeschäftes. Beide hatten mich noch manchmal besucht, oder brieflich zu Neujahr gratuliert; seit längerer Zeit aber hörte ich nichts von ihnen.

\+ c. Max der dritte Sohn, über den konnte ich nichts erfahren.

7. S a r a h verehel. Meyer (Börsenmakler) lebte noch etwa 1/2 Jahr nach meiner Geburt und ich weiss von ihr, wie von ihrem früher gestorbenen Mann nichts weiter, als daß sie in der Familie sehr beliebt gewesen sind. Ihre Kinder waren:

a. David Julius Dr.med. angestellt am Königstädter Theater als Arzt, starb unverheiratet, etwa 30 Jahre alt und soll sehr tüchtiger Mensch gewesen sein. Ich selbst habe ihn nicht gekannt.

\+ b. Moritz Dr.philolog., ein liebenswürdiger, bescheidener Mensch, dabei sehr gelehrt, hat sich aber nicht entschliessen können, ein Examen zu machen, um staatlich angestellt werden zu können, so daß er stets Privatlehrer blieb. Er domicilierte sich in den 50er Jahren in Halle, wo seine Schwester Bernhardi lebte, nahm dort eine sehr geachtete Stellung ein, obwohl er meist nur an Mädchenschulen unterrichtete, und war seiner musikalischen Neigung zufolge eifrig bei der dortigen Singakademie. Er starb in der Sommerfrische in Ilmenau, wo er auch begraben liegt, etwa 1890 - unverheiratet.
Er war einer meiner besten Freunde! Vor meiner Seele steht noch, wie er mich, den viel jüngeren, 13 - 14-jährigen Jungen alle Vormittage in den Hundstagsferien zum Schwimmen abholte und mir dann auf der Pfuel'schen Anstalt Unterricht erteilte, den eleganten Kopfsprung mit Anlauf zu machen, worin er so sehr excellierte. Jedes Frühjahr kam er aus Halle nach Berlin zum Besuche seiner Verwandten und verlebte jeden ersten Osterfeiertag bei uns.

c. Alexander erreichte kaum das Jünglingsalter als er starb und ich erinnere mich, ihn nur einmal bei uns, noch auf der neuen Promenade gesehen zu haben.

\+ d. Veit 1820 als Jüngster der Geschwister geboren, erst in der Kauer'schen Anstalt, dann auf der Gewerbeschule und schliesslich auf dem Gewerbe-Institut unter Beuth vorgebildet, arbeitete dann als Schlosser und Tischler und bildete sich in der Wöhlert'schen

Maschinenfabrik zum Civil-Ingenieur aus. Sein Fleiss und seine Tüchtigkeit verschafften ihm erst ausgiebige Stipendien und auch bald lohnende Beschäftigung. Seine Sporen verdiente er durch Einführung einer neuen Art Konstruktion der Leuchttürme und er hat im Auftrage der Regierung die sämtlichen an der deutschen "Nord und Ostsee" Küste erbaut.- Als Berlin 1872 die Schwemm-Kanalisation einführen wollte, hat er dafür nicht unwesentlich durch Wort und Tat gewirkt und zum Studium der Angelegenheit musste er im Auftrage des Magistrates viel Reisen nach anderen Städten und in der hiesigen Umgegend eingehende Messungen von Seen und Flußläufen vornehmen.- Er wurde in seinem Fache Autorität, erhielt mehrfache Orden, wurde aber erst sehr spät durch Ernennung zum Geheimen Baurat ausgezeichnet, da er in seiner Bescheidenheit nie nach Ehrungen ambitioniert hatte. Sein Heerdenname Meyer war schon durch kgl. Genehmigung längst in den besser zu unterscheidenden "Veitmeyer" mit Vornamen L.A. umgewandelt worden; in der Familie aber blieb er unser guter Veit.

Über 30 Jahre lang war er Vorsitzender der hochangesehenen polytechnischen Gesellschaft und diese stiftete sich zu seinem 25-jährigen Jubiläum seine Büste. Auch nahm er in der großen Landesloge eine hohe Stellung ein, so daß dieselbe nach seinem im Januar 1898 erfolgten Tod die Bestattung unter grosser Ehrung von ihrem Vereinshause aus übernahm.- Er starb, ebenfalls unverheiratet geblieben, an den Folgen einer Operation des grauen Stars.

Seine Bravheit, sein Schwärmen für alles Gute und Edle, seine angenehme Geselligkeit erzielten ihm im Leben viel Freunde, und seine Treue, verwandtschaftliche Anhänglichkeit werde ich ihm nie vergessen.- Übrigens hinterliess er ein grosses Vermögen.

e. <u>Philippine</u> heiratete meinen Onkel <u>Bahn</u>, nachdem derselbe die erste Frau, Schwester meines Vaters, verloren; sie wurde Mutter meines Vetters Martin Bahn (s.unten), war eine liebe freundliche Person und starb Ende der 50er Jahre an einem Krebsleiden, wie der grösste Teil ihrer Geschwister und so viele in der Familie.

- f. <u>Henriette</u> (älteste Schwester) verheiratete sich mit dem Professor Bernhardy Ord. an der Universität Halle und starb einige Jahre vor demselben in den 50er Jahren; sie hatte 4 Töchter:
  1. <u>Luise</u>, unverh. geblieben, ist geisteskrank in einer Anstalt
  2. <u>Sophie</u>, unverh. geblieben
  3. <u>Wilhelmine</u>, desgl.
  4. <u>Therese</u>, jetzt Witwe des Landgerichtsdirektors Dütschke, hat mehrere Kinder und ist somit die einzige der grossen Meyer'schen Familie, durch welche dieselbe Nachkommen erhalten hat; ihre Tochter ist an den Prof. phil. Kübler verheiratet.

+ g. Fanny blieb ebenfalls unverheiratet, war viele Jahre Gesellschaftsdame eines Rentier's Lindau, lebte nach dessen Tode bei ihrem Bruder Veit und starb verhältnismässig jung in den 60er Jahren.

+ h. Minna ebenfalls unverheiratet, war viele Jahre Erzieherin und Gesellschaftsdame im Hause des Prof. Bo in Dresden und zog nach dem Tode ihrer Schwester Fanny zu ihrem Bruder Veit, in dessen Hause sie etwa ums Jahr 1890 gestorben ist; eine gleichmässig freundlich gute Person, die mit mir und meiner Frau innig befreundet war.

7. Caroline verehel. Bahn hatte ich nicht mehr gekannt. Der Mann S.A.Bahn hatte ein Detailgeschäft in Kleiderstoffen und sein dunkler, gewölbeartiger Laden, Gertraudenstr. 8, ist mir noch gut in Erinnerung; seine Spezialität war in Westenstoffen und wer zur Zeit in Berlin einen solchen brauchte, ging zu ihm. Ich gedenke seiner als eines grossen, dicken Herrn, der mit seiner zweiten Frau Philippine geb. Meyer (s.oben) fast jeden Sonntag abend meine Eltern besuchte und mir merkwürdig war dadurch, daß er Cigarren rauchte und stets Tee mit Rum nicht aus einer Tasse, sondern nur aus einem Glase trank. Es blieben 5 Kinder, 4 von der ersten, 1 von der zweiten Frau.

- 1. Johanna, verheiratete sich mit einem Kaufmann Berendt, Manufacturisten, sehr langweiligen Herrn, der wahrscheinlich einmal aus Versehen eine Elle verschluckt und im Körper behalten hatte. Er war eifriges Mitglied der Altlutheraner Gemeinde, liess in seinem Hause nicht tanzen und ging nie ins Theater, dagegen desto regelmässiger zu den täglichen religiösen Versammlungen, wo sich die Leute durch gemeinsamen, scheusslich plärrenden Gesang den Himmel zu erringen glaubten. Von den 3 Söhnen lernte ich nur 2 kennen, die aber weniger fromm wie die Eltern waren.

  a. Emil ging zur Marine, wurde Kapitänleutnant und nahm den Abschied, als er den Dienst nach Verheiratung mit einer vermögenden Frau nicht mehr nötig hatte.

  b. Johannes, ein nettes Kerlchen, wurde Offizier und lebt jetzt als Major a.D. (glaube ich) am Rhein.

  c. Paul, den ich nicht kannte und von dem ich auch nichts weiss.

· 2. Theodor blieb unverheiratet und übernahm nach dem Tode des Vaters das Ladengeschäft. Dieser Vetter gehörte ebenfalls zu jener orthodox frommen Gemeinde, war aber weniger abstinent gegen weltliches Vergnügen, denn ich erinnere mich sehr gut, daß er, wenn er auch nicht selbst mittanzte, stets bereitwillig zum Tanz aufspielte, sobald die jungen Leute

loslegen wollten; überhaupt war es ein lieber guter Gesellschafter, sehr musikalisch.

+ 3. Adolph hat sich ebenfalls nicht verheiratet und war von Jugend auf etwas anrüchig von Charakter. Ganz jung, muß er schon so viel dumme, liederliche Streiche begangen haben, daß sich sein Vater genötigt sah, in den Zeitungen bekanntzugeben, daß er für dessen Schulden nicht aufkomme. Dann war er Schauspieler und an einigen Provinz-Schmieren engagiert, erzählte aber später selbst, daß er gewöhnlich ausgepfiffen wurde.- Nachher ging er nach Warschau und es hiess, daß er dort Polizeispitzel oder Zensor gewesen. Als er nach 5 Jahren wieder in Berlin erschien, hat er nie von seinem Aufenthalt in Polen gesprochen. Er war jetzt noch ein junger Mann von etwa 30 Jahren; sein dichtes schon völlig ergrautes Haupthaar bei nicht unschönem Gesicht, tiefschwarzem Schnurrbart und dunkel sprühenden Augen machte seine äussere Erscheinung auffallend und, da er sich viel in Theaterkreisen bewegte, auch einige Stücke schrieb, von denen mehrere Einakter aus dem Französischen übertragen, gefielen und oft gegeben wurden, so wurde er bald eine viel genannte Persönlichkeit in Berlin. Seine literarische Begabung war nicht weit her, doch war er als unterhaltender Gesellschafter recht beliebt. Wovon er seinen Unterhalt bestritt und sogar etwas Vermögen sammelte, ist nicht recht klar geworden. Allerdings wurde er in späteren Jahren haushälterisch - selbst geizig, verstand gut auf anderer Kosten zu leben und Freundschaftsschulden nie zurückzuzahlen; auch liess er sich überall Doktor titulieren.- Älter geworden, übersiedelte er dauernd nach Wiesbaden, wo er auch Ende der 80er Jahre - ca 60 Jahre alt starb. Sein Bruder Martin fand dann in seinem Nachlass keine besonderen Vermögensstücke, aber z.B. 20 Paar noch gut tragbare Stiefel und die Manuskripte einiger Gedichte, die von wütendem Antisemitismus strotzten. In den Büchern meines Vaters hatte sich eine Schuld von ihm über 500 Thl. vorgefunden, deren Rückzahlung wir Erben natürlich gleich als aussichtslos strichen.-
Bei alledem ist Adolph Bahn doch eine interessante Erscheinung gewesen und auch ich hatte ihn nicht ungern.

4. Emilie schwebt mir aus meinen Kinderjahren als reizend liebliche Erscheinung vor; sie war etwa mit meinen Schwestern gleichaltrig und daher in deren Mädchenjahren bei der Geselligkeit, die auf Anregung meiner Mutter in unserem Hause herrschte, sehr viel bei uns. Bald zeite sich, daß sie mit einem jungen Mediziner, Dr. Adolph Paudel, einem schlanken, fein geschniegelten Herrn, der natürlich auch unser Hausfreund wurde, heimlich versprochen war. Letzteren sehe ich noch vor Augen, wie er, den Contretanz kommandierend, mit

vollendetem Schick seine Pas - damals tanzte man noch vollständig die eingelernten Figuren nach der Regel - ausführte. Dr.Faudel war aber wohl ein besserer Tänzer als Mediziner, denn nachdem er mehreremal sein Staatsexamen vorbei gemacht, sah er sich genötigt, umzusatteln. Er heiratete seine Emilie nach achtjähriger Brautschaft und ging zum Buchhandel über; dieser ging aber nicht mit ihm und musste ebenfalls bald aufgegeben werden. F. fand dann eine Anstellung auf dem Wolff'schen Telegraphen-Bureau.
Die langjährig treue Liebschaft hat in der Ehe schlecht abgeschlossen. Ich war noch mit meiner Frau zur silbernen Hochzeit des Paares, doch hiess es schon da, daß das Band zwischen Beiden längst gelockert sei, daß er eine Nebenehe eingegangen sei, aus welcher ihm eine Anzahl Kinder gesegnet seien.- Emilie trennte sich denn auch einige Jahre später von dem Mann und lebte bei ihrer Tochter in Rostock. Ich sah sie noch einmal vor ihrem Tode hier bei ihrem Bruder Martin als alte Frau, ohne Spur ihrer Jugendblüte. Auch ihn traf ich mal vor 15 - 20 Jahren in einem Omnibus; es war ein geknickter, invalider Herr in schäbiger, loddriger Kleidung und ich verglich damit in melancholischer Stimmung das lebensfrohe Bild, das mir von seiner stattlichen Jünglingserscheinung in Gedanken vorschwebte. Der Ehe waren 2 Kinder entsprossen:

a. Lina (Caroline) verkehrte als frisches, niedliches Mädel in meinem Hause; sie hatte eine hübsche, gut geschulte Sopranstimme und brachte einen jungen Philologen, Dr.Bögemann, der in Baßtönen sang, als ihren Verlobten mit. Wie sie heiraten wollten, fehlten ihnen zur Einrichtung noch 180 Thl (540 MK) die er mir mit einem langen Brief, worin er mir feierlich mit Ehrenwort die Rückzahlung im Jahre darauf mit Zinsen a 5 % zusagte, abborgte.- Ich gab ihm das Geld und sagte ihm, daß ich Zinsen nicht verlange.- Ob ihn diese meine Connivenz wohl beleidigt hat?! Jedenfalls bewährte sich das alte Wort, daß, wenn man gute Freunde los werden will, man ihnen Geld leihen soll. Ich sah beide nie wieder und D.B. hielt es auch nicht für angebracht, mir die Ehrenschuld freiwillig zurückzuzahlen. Er war nach Rostock übersiedelt und hatte dort eine Mädchenschule übernommen, die sehr gut ging und das Paar in durchaus gesicherte Umstände brachte. Nach etwa 10 Jahren erzählte ich die Pumpgeschickte an Veit Meyer und Martin Bahn; beide waren darüber in hohem Grade entrüstet und drangen darauf, daß ich mein Geld zurückverlange. Infolgedessen schrieb ich Herrn Dr.B. einen höflichen Mahnbrief, empfing aber keine Antwort - kein Wort der Entschuldigung, was mich derartig entrüstete, daß ich die Sache meinem Rechtsanwalt übergab. Auf dessen Aufforderung, das Kapital und die Zinsen zu bezahlen, ging ersteres umgehend ein; die Zinsen zu zahlen wurde abgelehnt,

weil ich ja selbst freiwillig verzichtet hätte, Zinsen zu beanspruchen (s.Mscr.) und ich schenkte ihm die weitere Unannehmlichkeit, mir auch die mir zustehenden Zinsen zahlen zu müssen.
Frau Lina soll nun auch schon seit mehreren Jahren tot sein.

+ 4. M a x war ein ordentlicher, netter Mensch, ich weiss aber nicht mehr genau, welchen Beruf er ergriffen. Er machte den 1870er Krieg mit, kam unverletzt zurück, ging dann nach Wien, heiratete und starb bald darauf, noch sehr jung.

+ 5. M a r t i n Sohn der zweiten Frau, wurde also durch seinen Vater mein Stiefvetter, durch seine Mutter mein rechter Kleincousin. Derselbe war ziemlich gleichaltrig mit mir, nur 1/2 Jahr jünger und ist, da er glücklicherweise noch lebt, einer meiner besten Freunde geblieben. Bei dem intimen Verkehr der Eltern kamen wir in der Jugend viel zusammen, im Jünglingsalter eine Zeit lang auseinander, denn durch seine glückliche Gabe des Gesanges, wie durch seine lebhaft gesellige Veranlagung wurde er vielfach in andere, mir fernstehende Kreise gezogen. Er ergriff die buchhändlerische Karriere und übernahm dann die renommierte Trautwein'sche Buch- und Musikalienhandlung - Verlag und Sortiment -, die er durch sein musikalisches Verständnis sehr in Schwung brachte. Als er das Sortiment (jetzt vor schon ca 15 - 20 Jahren) aufgab, hatte er ein schönes Vermögen erworben; den Verlag, der sehr lucrativ ist, betreibt er noch heute.- Auf einer Reise hatte er Frl.Sophie Schelle, Tochter eines Bremer Kaufmannes, kennen und lieben gelernt und er heiratete dieselbe im Jahre 1854.- Es war eine tüchtige, brave und kluge Frau, die ihrem Manne nicht nur eine höchst angenehme Häuslichkeit, sondern auch durch ihr stets gleichmässig freundlich geselliges Wesen einen schönen Freundeskreis erhielt.
Meine Frau fühlte sich innig zu Sophie Bahn hingezogen und blieb bis zuletzt mit ihr in herzlichstem Verkehr. In den letzten Jahren vor ihrem 18.. erfolgten Tode musste die arme Frau sehr leiden. Schon in jungen Jahren tuberkulös gewesen, bekam sie die Krankheit von neuem; das eine Bein wurde dann ergriffen und, nachdem sie mit engelhafter Geduld fast 5 Jahre lang große Schmerzen hat ertragen und fest liegen müssen, wurde ihr das Glied bis zum Oberschenkel amputiert. Die Operation überstand sie sehr gut, die Hoffnung, daß sie dann wenigstens auf Krücken sich allein werde fortbewegen können, ging aber nicht in Erfüllung; sie musste stets von Ort zu Ort getragen werden, lebte indes noch wieder freudig auf, bis sie die tückische Krankheit einige Jahre darauf doch dahinraffte.
Die Ehe war kinderlos geblieben.

VII. Therese, verehel.Weber
Ich habe sie so wenig wie ihren Mann kennengelernt, denn der letztere wurde noch vor meiner Geburt als Polizei-Direktor nach Koblenz versetzt. Wie ich aus den Gesprächen meiner Eltern herausgehört, müssen es sehr nette Leute gewesen sein, in deren Hause gemütliche Geselligkeit, besonders aber Musik gepflegt wurde. Etwa 1833 übersiedelten sie dann infolge eines unangenehmen Vorkommnisses - meine Tante hatte unter der Hand ein Umschlagetuch gekauft, das sich als gestohlen herausstellte - nach Amerika über, siedelten sich am Missouri an, bauten ein Blockhaus und wollten auf dem gekauften Terrain als Landbebauer und Viehzüchter ein idyllisches, von der Kultur noch nicht angekränkeltes Dasein führen. Es ging ihnen aber, wie vielen anderen damals, denen die rauhe Wirklichkeit ihre Ideale schnell vernichtete.-
Sie hatten die furchtbarsten Entbehrungen und mühevollsten Arbeiten zu tragen und die Produkte, welche sie dann ernteten, waren nur schlecht oder gar nicht bei den damals mangelhaften Verkehrswegen und der dünn gesäten Bevölkerung zu verwerten. Zur rechten Zeit entschlossen sie sich dann, das Anwesen á tout prix zu Gelde zu machen und nach der aufblühenden Stadt St.Louis überzusiedeln, wo sie ein Musikaliengeschäft gründeten und damit zu einer gesicherten Existenz gelangten.
Aus der Ehe entsprangen 5 Kinder, von denen in den .... Jahrzehnten teils Nachrichten einliefen und mit denen auch ab und zu noch persönlicher Kontakt statthatte. Jetzt hat seit längerer Zeit alle Verbindung aufgehört.

+ 1. Gottwald
+ 2. Heinrich war als junger Mann von vorteilhaftem Wesen und Aussehen im Sommer 1847 zum Besuch der Familie in Berlin. Ich habe ihn aber nicht kennengelernt, da ich zur Zeit in Stettin war.
+ 3. Ida, verehel.Warrens; letzterer soll ein vermögender, angesehener Yankee gewesen sein. Von deren Kindern tauchte hier plötzlich im J.1860 eine Tochter, Miss Hill, auf und logierte sich bei Onkel S.A.Bonda auf längere Zeit ein. Es war eine hochgewachsene, elegante, fesche Erscheinung. Daß sie allein in der Welt herumreiste, war bei einer Amerikanerin eigentlich nicht weiter wunderbar; daß sie aber mit dem Maurermeister Schulz, einem Schwager der Geh.Kommerzienrätin Kahlbaum, auf sehr freie Weise verkehrte, war doch ein wenig problematisch und Onkel Alexander war froh, als sie endlich wieder abreiste. Über ihren nachherigen Aufenthalt in Europa gab es allerhand Gerüchte und man weiss nicht recht, wo sie ein Ende genommen hat.
+ 4. Bertha, verehel.Berenz, über welche ich weiter nichts Näheres in Erfahrung bringen konnte.
+ 5. Therese, verehel.Balmer, kam in den 60er Jahren nach Berlin und hielt sich hier längere Zeit auf, um ein krankes Kind behandeln zu lassen.

VIII. Gutchen, verehel.mit einem Kaufmann Borchard in Coeslin habe ich nie kennengelernt, obwohl sie erst 1850 im Alter von 72 Jahren starb als Witwe. Der Mann war bereits im J.1836 gestorben. Von dem Ehepaar ist nichts Besonderes mitzuteilen; es hatte 3 Töchter.

1. Sarah heiratete einen Gutsbesitzer Natusius, in Pommern ansässig, der oft nach Berlin kam. Meine Cousine aber habe ich, meines Wissens niemals gesehen. Natusius war vormals Tanzmeister gewesen und ein lustig tänzelndes Wesen ist ihm zeitlebens geblieben. Gern erzählte er allerhand Schnurren. Darunter ist mir folgende im Gedächtnis geblieben, die ich unter der Devise:

   "Naturalia non sunt turpia"

   wiedergebe.

   Als König Friedrich Wilhelm der IV. in Pommern reiste, trifft plötzlich auf Natusius Gutshof ein Courier ein mit der Botschaft, daß ihm der König binnen 10 Minuten folge und dringend eine nötige Sitzung absolvieren müsse. Na, da die für solchen Zweck vorhandenen Einrichtungen durchaus keine königlichen waren, so lässt N. kurz entschlossen aus einem Rohrstuhl das defekte Rohr entfernen, das übrig gebliebene Sitzholz dicht mit reinen Handtüchern umwickeln und einen glücklicherweise vorhandenen schönen Porzellan-Eimer darunter stellen. Der König fährt vor, stürzt eiligst ins Haus, wird in das wohnlich stille Gemach geleitet und kommt nach einiger Zeit mit sehr befriedigter Miene wieder heraus. Er gab auch seiner Befriedigung Ausdruck, indem er für N's Dienstboten einen Friedrichsd'or spendete. So, meinte N. war die aufregende Sache gut beendigt, umso besser, als sie auch seinem Acker zugute gekommen wäre.

   Das Ehepaar hatte 5 Kinder:

   a. Minna an Dr.Eichelbaum in Königsberg verheiratet.
   b. Julie an einen Hopfenhändler Straus in Bamberg verheiratet.
   c. Rosa desgl.an dessen Bruder oder Vetter, wurden beide sehr reiche Leute.
   d. Otto ging, nachdem er einige Jahre hier gelebt, nach Kansas oder Texas in Amerika, heiratete dort und kam zu gutem Wohlstand. Als der Secessionskrieg ausgebrochen, machte er ihn als fanatischer Gegner der Sklaven-Emancipation auf Seiten der Südstaaten mit, wurde Major und er kehrte bald, nachdem die Sache, für die er gekämpft, unterlegen, nach Europa zurück, lebte denn hier mit seiner Familie als Rentier und starb vor etwa 1 Jahre, ca 72 Jahre alt.
   e. Berthold lebt noch als reicher Kaufmann in Hamburg.

2. Johanna verehel.Dr.Davidsohn, der Arzt in Prenzlau gewesen und dort vor etwa 40 - 45 Jahren gestorben ist. Sie siedelte dann mit ihren 4 Kindern hierher über, lebte von ihrem bescheidenen Vermögen als Privatiere und starb vor ca 5 Jahren. Als junges Mädchen war sie

mehreremal wochenlang Gast im Hause meiner Eltern.
Ihre Kinder sind:

a. Otto trat in das Geschäft eines Weingroßhändlers in Mainz, heiratete dessen Tochter und übernahm das Geschäft, nachdem der Schwiegervater ausgeschieden; er führt dasselbe auch jetzt noch fort. Die Ehe aber war sehr unglücklich wegen Unverträglichkeit auf beiden Seiten und sie wurde nach mehreren Jahren geschieden; mehrere Kinder sind vorhanden.
b. Antonie verehel.Dr.Oppenheimer, Prediger der hiesigen Jüd.Reform-Gemeinde, bei welcher er aber kaltgestellt wurde, als eine Tochter von ihm einen Christen heiratete und sich taufen liess. Antonie war als niedliches lebhaftes 17-jähriges Mädchen nach Berlin gekommen und ich selbst hatte eine Zeit lang ein faible für sie; sie ging dann als Erzieherin nach Ungarn und lernte dort ihren Zukünftigen kennen.
c. Auguste, mit einem Kaufm.Arnheim hier verh.gewesen. Beide sind schon gestorben, ohne Kinder zu hinterlassen.
d. Elise ist unverheiratet geblieben und lebt noch hier.

- 3. Laura verehel.Kanitz, Privat-Schullehrer in Coeslin
Diesem Paar ist es materiell nicht besonders gut gegangen. Es hatte viel mit Entbehrungen zu kämpfen und, als es, noch nicht alt geworden, starb, hinterliess es sieben Kinder:

+ a. Anna verh.mit Oberpfarrer Thiele in Küstrin, lebt jetzt als Witwe in Carlshorst bei Berlin.
+ b. Elisabeth
+ c. Martha beide unverh.geblieben, schon gestorben.
+ d. Johannes Konsistorialrat in der Priegnitz.
+ e. Clara ist mit einem Pastor Kolbe verheiratet.
+ f. Carl Kaufmann und ist mir nichts weiter über ihn bekannt.
+ g. Paul scheint ganz zugrunde gegangen.

[illegible]sa verehel.Sussmann,
[illegible]r Kaufmann gewesen. Über beide, die vor meiner Zeit gestorben, ist mir nichts Näheres bekannt, desto mehr über ihre Nachkommen. Es waren 3 Kinder geblieben.

[illegible]. Henriette war mit einem Börsen "Pfuschmakler" Meier verheiratet und da dies Ehepaar Münzstr.1 uns grade gegenüber wohnte, wurde ich, als sechsjähriges Kind, ohne Ahnung von der nahen Verwandtschaft "weil ich so reizend war" von den Cousin'chens (den Meier'schen Kindern) immer abgefangen, hinübergeholt und abgeknutscht.- Jene waren allerdings, ausgenommen die älteste Bertha, nichts weniger wie reizend, teilweise sogar abschreckend hässlich. Das Ehepaar starb etwa um 1845 und die Kinder (sechs) kamen mir später fast gänzlich aus dem Gesichtskreis.

Es waren:

a. Bertha heiratete einen Herrn Jacob Meier, der aber nicht mit ihr verwandt war und eine Fabrik auf dem grossen Areal, Köpenickerstr.18 - 20 begründete und unter der Firma Breslauer & Meier betrieb, bis sie aufgelöst und in den 70er Jahren an M.Mengers für Errichtung seiner Velvet Fabrik verkauft wurde. Die Meier'sche Fabrik produzierte Manufacturen; ich weiss aber nicht mehr welche. Jacob Meier scheint ein vermögender Mann geworden zu sein, ich weiss aber nicht, ob er sehr viel hinterlassen hat, da er sich in allerhand Grundstück "Unternehmungen" eingelassen. So erbaute er auf dem Terrain des früher Griebenow'schen Gutshofes vor dem Schönhauser Tor große Familienhäuser, mit welchem Erfolg, ist mir, wie schon angedeutet, nicht bekannt geworden.
   Bertha war eine Frau mit angenehm, geistreichen Gesicht und, wie auch ihr Mann, sehr für gemeinnützige Bestrebungen eingenommen; ich sprach sie in späteren Jahren noch vorübergehend. Ein leider früh gestorbener Sohn von ihr, Victor, war seiner ausserordentlichen Begabung wegen schon in seinen 20er Jahren Professor ord. in Heidelberg; eine Tochter ist an dem bekannten Bildhauer Johannes Pfuhl verheiratet.
b. Rosalie ist mir wegen ihrer abschreckenden Hässlichkeit noch in voller Erinnerung; sie schielte und hatte schlechte vorstehende Zähne. Sie hiess aber doch in der ganzen Familie die Rosenjungfrau, weil sie als eine solche - in ausgeschnitten rosa Kleidchen, mit Rosen im Haar - auf dem Polterabend meiner Schwester Cölestina erschienen war. Meine Mutter hat die Komik des Kontrasts zeitlebens nicht vergessen können. Trotz alledem soll Röschen einen ganz ansehnlichen, gut situierten Mann ergattert haben.
c. Clara
d. Auguste von diesen beiden kann ich nichts weiter berichten.
e. Leopold war mit mir ungefähr gleichaltrig und auch mein Schulkamerad bei Marggraf, daher ich als Kind oft seine Gesellschaft, die mir aber nie sehr sympathisch war, geniessen musste. Er sah sehr unvorteilhaft jüdisch aus und litt an permanentem Stockschnupfen. Als das californische Goldfieber, anfangs der 50er Jahre, ausgebrochen, ging auch er mit seinem Bruder hinüber, kam aber nach einigen Jahren, ohne Lohn für die ausgestandenen Strapazen erzielt zu haben, nach Berlin zurück. Er fand dann später hier eine Stellung bei den Norddeutschen Eiswerken und hiess davon bei seinen Stadtbekannten: "Eismeier". In der Familie hatte er sich aber den Namen "Pottmeier" errungen, indem ihn mal das Mädchen bei Rudolphs seines Stockschnupfens wegen so verstanden und angemeldet hatte. Übrigens pumpte er mich mal mit 75 Thl. an und betrog mich damit, indem er sie, wider mein Erwarten, prompt zurückzahlte. Er starb in den 80er Jahren und soll schliesslich dem Alkohol sehr ergeben gewesen sein.

f. David war ein stiller, in sich gekehrter Mensch, über den wenig zu sagen ist. Er starb in Amerika, auch ohne materiellen Erfolg erzielt zu haben, nach wenigen Jahren seines Dortseins, war verheiratet gewesen und hinterliess eine Tochter als Waise, die dann hier bei ihrer Tante Bertha aufgezogen worden ist.

2. Alexander verh. mit einer geb.Wiesenthal, mit deren Bruder er hier die bekannte "Shawl und Tücher" Fabrik unter der Firma Sussmann und Wiesenthal errichtete, nachdem er vorher längere Zeit in England gewesen war. Ob er dort schon verheiratet war und sich mit seiner Familie hatte taufen lassen, ist mir entfallen. Hier herrschte in seiner Häuslichkeit feines, aber etwas steif englisches Wesen, dabei doch gemütliche Gastfreiheit. Ich habe als ganz junger Mensch dort sehr viel verkehrt und kann wohl sagen, daß ich schöne Stunden dort verlebte. Die Kinder des Hauses und eine Anzahl ihm befreundeter lebensfroher junger Leute trugen das ihrige dazu bei. Der nachher bekannte Bildhauer Wittig und der spätere Oberpfarrer Rau in Potsdam, zur Zeit Kandidat und ein komisches Original, sind mir noch erinnerlich.

Als die beiden Begründer der Fabrik in den 50er Jahren kurz nacheinander gestorben waren -- der Wiesenthal soll infolge der Aufregung in der Nacht des 18.März geisteskrank geworden sein -- waren die Verhältnisse der Firma sehr in Niedergang begriffen und die Fabrik konnte für die Sussmann'sche Familie nicht gehalten werden; sie wurde von dem Wiesenthal'schen Stiefsohne Carl Köhne und dem langjährigen Prokuristen Halberstadt übernommen (später trat auch Vetter Reinhold Moritz ein), und nahm dann wieder einen tüchtigen Aufschwung.- Die Dekadenz, in welche Tante Sussmann und ihre Kinder geraten waren, hat sich dagegen nicht wieder heben lassen - ein trauriges Bild eines wechselvollen Schicksales! 7 Kinder:

+ a. Amalie heiratete einen Kaufmann Hennl in München, der, wie ich glaube, eine geachtete Stellung in guten Verhältnissen einnahm; sie soll aber geisteskrank geworden sein.
+ b. Luise heiratete einen Pastor Spormann nach einem kleinen Nest in Pommern oder Westpreussen. Wie diese Ehe mit dem plötzlich hereingeschneiten, langweiligen fremden Herrn zu Stande kam, war uns jungen Hausfreunden unklar; wir wirkten aber am Polterabend in dem von Rau verfassten Stück gern mit. Von dem Resultat dieser Ehe weiss ich nichts zu melden.
- c. Charlotte z.Zt. die beauté der Familie, ein kleiner Lockenkopf, war mehrere Jahre mit einem Freunde ihres Bruders, einem lockeren Maler (Steinel oder Steinle) versprochen, bis er sich eines schönen Tages verflüchtigte. Nach Auflösung des Hausstandes lebte sie dann auswärts mit ihrer Mutter zusammen in recht gedrückten Verhältnissen und ist wohl jetzt auch nicht mehr am Leben; sie blieb unverheiratet.

+ d. Alexandrine war nicht hübsch, aber eine kluge unterhaltende und recht musikalische Person, heiratete dann einen Lehrer Oehler in Halle und lebt dort noch als Witwe mit mehreren Kindern. Die Familie hat sich unter vielen Entbehrungen durchschlagen müssen.
+ e. Franzisca eigentlich die niedlichste von den fünfen, nahm ihren Vetter Albrecht Moritz zum Mann; es gab aber keine glückliche Ehe und, nachdem sie nach Rheydt im Rheinland gezogen, wo er sich als Privatbaumeister niedergelassen hatte und wo ich sie mal anfangs der 60er Jahre besuchte, trennten sie sich später; er zog nach Düsseldorf und sie blieb in gedrückter Vermögenslage in Rheydt.
+ f. Karl widmete sich der Portrait- und Historichmalerei, brachte es aber zu keinem Erfolg, war überhaupt eine zerfahrene Natur und starb ganz plötzlich noch jung von Jahren etwa 1850.. (Nicht zu verwechseln mit Carl Sussmann, Vetter aus der Riess'schen Familie).
+ g. William wenig älter wie ich, war mein Jugendkamerad und zählte zu meinen intimeren Freunden, bis unser Verhältnis im Jahre 1859 zu einem plötzlichen Bruch kam. W. war ein umgänglich gewitzter Kumpan, dem es aber trotzdem nicht glückte, eine dauernd haltbare Position zu erringen. Er wollte sich in die väterliche Fabrik hineinarbeiten, muß sich aber durch rechthaberisch unleidliches Benehmen, oder sonst wie, als die Alten gestorben waren, nicht richtig gestellt haben, so daß man ihn bei Reorganisation des Geschäfts kalt setzte.- Dann versuchte er verschiedene Anknüpfungen, schlug auch mir, als er hörte, daß ich mich allein etablieren wollte, vor, daß ich ihm eine convenable Position in meinem Geschäft geben sollte. Als ich ihm dies aber aus sehr verständigen Gründen abschlagen musste, nahm er dies Refüs derartig krumm, daß er mich fortan totalement schnitt. Er associierte sich mit einem Bruder seiner verstorbenen Frau, Emil Miller, zu einem Börsengeschäft; die Sache dauerte aber nur eine sehr kurze Zeit und hatte ein so böses Ende, daß sich beide Herren sehr schnell ins Ausland absentierten. William ging nach London und ernährte sich dort auf mir unbekannte Weise durch "Handels oder Agentur" Geschäfte; er hat auch dort wieder geheiratet und soll noch am Leben sein. Ein oder zweimal ist er auch in der Zwischenzeit in Berlin gewesen, hat einige Verwandte besucht, mich aber gänzlich ignoriert.- Vor diesen Erlebnissen hatte er im Jahre 1851 (oder 52) Frl. Luise Miller, die Nichte des angesehenen und wohlhabenden Börsenmaklers Kirchheim, ein reizend hübsches Mädchen, geheiratet. Dieselbe starb aber nach 3/4 Jahren bei der Geburt ihres Töchterchens am Kindbettfieber. Diese Tochter wurde, während der Vater ein lustiges Junggesellen-Leben wieder begann, bei den Tanten aufgezogen, erbte, soviel ich erfahren, vom alten Großonkel ca 40,000 Thl.

und lebte, nachdem die Miller'sche Familie verdorben und gestorben, von der Rente dieses Kapitals als einsam unverheiratete Privatiere. Ich suchte, als sie herangewachsen war, mit ihr gesellschaftlich anzuknüpfen, sie konnte aber mit meinen Kindern nicht harmonieren und so schlief der Verkehr bald ein. Der Grund, warum Vater und Tochter ganz auseinander kamen, ist mir unerklärlich geblieben.

3. Moritz ging zum Christentum über und nahm dabei den Namen "Moritz" als Familiennamen an; er machte die Freiheitskriege mit und erhielt in der letzten Schlacht bei Waterloo einen Schuß in den Kopf, der ihm das eine Auge kostete, so daß er, geheilt, dauernd ein schwarzes Pflaster darüber trug. Er heiratete ein Frl. Teltz, Schwester der obenerwähnten Frau Knight, die Schwiegermutter von Heinrich Benda und Tante von Emil Teltz (wie sie selbst) war. Moritz wurde als Beamter bei der General-Commission angestellt, war Rendant erst in Soldin, dann in Frankfurt (Oder) und zog, als er sich wegen Kränklichkeit pensionieren lassen musste, etwa Ende der 1850er Jahre nach Berlin, wo beide Eheleute bald darauf starben. Sie hatten 6 Kinder:

+ a. Marie war schon als sehr junges hübsches Mädchen etwa 1840 zum Besuch in Berlin, heiratete dann hier einen hier domicilierenden Major Lehmann, der zwar ein sehr stattlicher Herr, aber als Kriegskamerad ihres Vaters bedeutend älter wie sie war. Als sie nach vielleicht zehnjähriger Ehe Witwe geworden, blieb sie in Berlin, von ihrer bescheidenen Pension lebend und starb etwa 1885 kinderlos.
+ b. Albrecht wurde Architekt. Derselbe hatte stets etwas Düsteres, Verschlossenes an sich, heiratete wie schon oben erwähnt, seine Cousine Franzisca Sussmann und die Ehe war keine glückliche, so daß sie sich später trennten, ohne sich aber gerichtlich scheiden zu lassen. Er lebt, glaube ich, noch in Düsseldorf. Über die vorhandenen 4 - 5 Kinder weiss ich nichts Näheres.
+ c. Emmy war auch als auffallend hübsches, etwa 18-jähriges Mädchen schon zu Besuch in Berlin und kam (wie auch ihre Schwestern Marie und Anna) viel in mein Elternhaus. In diesem verkehrte der nachmalige Lehrer am Kloster Bollmann als Student und Freund meiner Brüder und zwischen ihm und Emmy entwickelten sich auffallende Gefühle von Sympathie, die aber nicht zu einem Verlöbnis führten, weil Freund Bollmann zur Erkenntnis kam, daß er sich nur ein goldverbrämtes Idol anschaffen dürfe (was er dann auch später tat). Emmy kam dann später auf der Hochzeit von William Sussmann mit Luis Rudolph, einem Weber bei Sussmann und Wiesenthal zusammen, der sich in sie verliebte, um sie anhielt und erhielt sie auch. Rudolph, der ein braver, ausserordentlich umsichtiger tüchtiger Geschäftsmann war, gründete dann die Appretur Fabrik "Friedländer & Rudolph" mit eben genanntem Compagnon

und brachte es dabei zu hohem Ansehen und schönem Vermögen. Auch war die Ehe eine sehr glückliche, nur wurde die Frau leider bald recht kränklich; sie überlebte aber doch ihren Mann, der schon 1882 starb, um reichlich 10 Jahre. Mit meiner Frau war sie innig befreundet und wir haben viele schöne Stunden mit dem höchst interessanten, charaktervollen Mann und der guten Frau durchgelebt, besonders da dieselben ein gastfreies Haus führten. Von den 3 Kindern starb die älteste "Marie" nach kurzer Ehe mit Georg Kühne (Bruder von Felix Kühne) an der Schwindsucht und den Mann fand man 8 Wochen darauf mit durchschossener Schläfe tot; man behauptet, durch einen zufällig losgegangenen Schuß seines Revolvers (er war zur Übung eingezogen). Die zweite Tochter "Margarethe" ist sehr reich verheiratet an den grossen Fabrikbesitzer Krupp in Berndorf bei Wien; aber kinderlos. Der Sohn Franz verh. mit Martha Wolff, auch kinderlos, hat jetzt die allein fortgeführte Fabrik liquidiert, nachdem dieselbe durch widrige Conjunctur oder böse Konkurrenz längst keine Erträgnisse mehr geliefert hatte.

+ d. <u>Anna</u> erschien als junges 15-jähriges Mädchen zuerst in Berlin auf der Hochzeit von Luise Sussmann, hübscher grosser Figur, aber lange nicht so schön wie ihre vorher genannten beiden Schwestern; sie lernte später den Lithographen Theodor Wendisch kennen und verheiratete sich mit diesem, als er (vielleicht durch Luis Rudolphs Hilfe) eine lithographische Anstalt hier begründet hatte, im Jahre 1859. Th.W. war ein höchst biederer liebenswürdiger Kerl, fleissig und tüchtig, so daß er sein Geschäft ordentlich in Flor brachte und als er 1891 gestorben, seiner Familie ein hübsches Vermögen hinterlassen konnte. Anna war ein höchst gutmütiges Geschöpf; es haftete ihr aber etwas pedantisch Krähwinkliches an, was sogar den Mann oft veranlasste, sie aufzuziehen und ihr in der Familie den Spitznamen "Frau Buchholtzen" eintrug. Trotzdem blieb das Ehepaar mit mir und meiner Frau bis zuletzt innig befreundet. Anna ist ebenfalls vor einigen Jahren gestorben und es sind die beiden Söhne Reinhold und Alfred geblieben.

+ e. <u>Helene</u> war eine unglückliche, mit der Welt unzufriedene Person, weil sie nicht hübsch und durch eine Hasenscharte am Sprechen verhindert, sich nur schwer verständlich machen konnte, blieb unverheiratet und lebt nicht mehr.

+ f. <u>Reinhold</u> war der jüngste und eine angenehme Persönlichkeit gewesen. Er kam in die Sussmann & Wiesenthal'sche Fabrik als Lehrling und war wohl so brauchbar, daß er später als stiller Teilhaber aufgenommen wurde. Er heiratete dann ein Frl.Adolpha Jekel, die als strenge Katholikin nicht nur alle, von ihrer Konfession vorgeschriebenen Gebräuche inne hielt, sondern sich auch vorbedungen hatte, ihre etwaigen

Kinder ebenso erziehen zu lassen. Reinhod, der in dieser Beziehung indifferent war, auch Protestant blieb, liess sich das gefallen und die Ehe wurde, da Adolpha im übrigen als kluge, liebenswürdige Frau sich erwies, eine durchaus glückliche.
Reinhold wurde leider früh kränklich und starb vor etwa 6 Jahren; die Frau lebt hier. Es waren mehrere Kinder, wovon der älteste, Karl, ein hervorragend tüchtiger Architect geworden ist (Karl Moritz Eduard Dr.Ing.)

X. Marianne verehel.Ende die jüngste Schwester meines Vaters und die einzige der Schwestern, welche ich noch persönlich gekannt habe. Sie hatte einen simplen, aber ehrenwerten Mann geheiratet - einen Goldarbeiter Ende und ich glaube gehört zu haben, daß sie ihn als einen Unteroffizier im Alexander-Regiment kennen gelernt habe, woraus mir später erklärlich wurde, daß sie von der ganzen Familie wie eine Art von chose negligeable behandelt wurde, denn ich erinnere mich nicht, das Ehepaar einmal bei Familienfesten und dergl. gesehen zu haben. Der Mann, der zu meiner Zeit einen kleinen Juwelier-Laden in der alten Schönhauserstrasse inne hatte, machte den Eindruck eines ordentlichen, stillen Menschen; sie schwebt mir als ältere, verbitterte einfache Frau vor. Ich war als Kind, bei der nahen Nachbarschaft, manchmal bei ihnen. Beide starben bald kurz nacheinander und hinterliessen einen Sohn

Emil Herrmann etwas jünger als ich - einen schüchternen, verschlossenen Menschen, mit dem man nicht verwandtschaftlich intim werden konnte und der daher keinen Anschluß in der ganzen Familie fand.
Er wurde Kaufmann, war einige Jahre im Geschäft von Onkel Alexander, fand dann eine Stellung bei der Disconto Gesellschaft, heiratete (ohne davon Nachricht zu geben) und verlor sich dann aus unser aller Gesichtskreis.